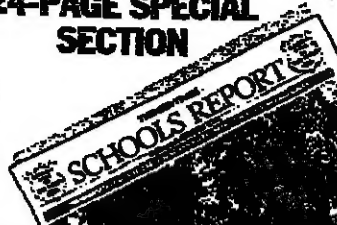


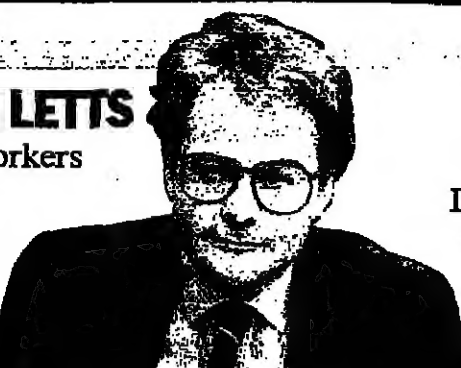


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24-PAGE SPECIAL
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the coat is back
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Fire damage may disrupt tunnel services for months

By JONATHAN PRYNN, JOANNA BALE AND RICHARD DUCE

CHANNEL TUNNEL services could be disrupted for months after the train fire on Monday night, which left a scene of devastation in the Folkestone-bound tunnel.

As three inquiries were launched into the incident which led to 19 people being treated in hospital, senior Eurotunnel executives said they hoped that services would be back to normal within four weeks. But with at least 600 metres of the tunnel damaged, engineers thought the repairs would take "months rather than weeks".

Six people were detained in hospital overnight after the fire, which destroyed a locomotive and five lorries, most suffering from the effects of inhaling smoke. But all were released yesterday.

The undamaged half of the tunnel at Calais yesterday, but the burnt-out section is not expected to be removed from the track until later today.

Yesterday emergency crews spoke of hellish conditions during the evacuation of the 31 passengers and three crew, with chunks of concrete raining down on them from the tunnel roof. The 6in thick reinforced concrete lining was said to be so badly blistered in one place that chalk was showing through. The fire, thought to have reached temperatures of 1000C, also destroyed miles of wiring and cabling, and buckled part of the track.

No trains were running through the tunnel last night because of the high levels of carbon monoxide but Eurotunnel hopes to begin a limited service through the undamaged north tunnel this morning, with about a third of the scheduled timetable operating. This will be increased to a maximum of two-thirds of the normal service over the next week.

Yesterday Le Shuttle passengers were advised to use the ferries, but they suffered further delays of up to an hour because of bad weather.

In the Commons, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, praised the emergency services and said he would be urging the French authorities to make the findings of their investigations public.

The French safety authorities, the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority and Eurotunnel



"Dear François, I think it would be much better if you came over to me this Christmas..."

will conduct separate enquiries. No cause has yet been established for the fire, which was thought to have started in a consignment of steel. Polystyrene packaging is believed to have contributed to the ferocity of the blaze.

The train was pulling 29 open wagons and the 31 lorry drivers and passengers were travelling in a special wagon at the front. The train stopped when the tunnel's sensors detected the fire, but the driver did not decouple the locomotive and "club car" behind it to allow the passengers and crew to escape. Eurotunnel safety sources said yesterday that their investigations would concentrate on why that emergency procedure had not been followed.

Passengers spoke of a stench like "burning chicken" filling the carriage where they were eating a meal of steak and wine when the fire broke out shortly after 9pm. They were told to crouch on the floor with moistened napkins over their mouths when acrid fumes filled the car. They then had to wait for up to 20 minutes before being taken out of the tunnel.

Recalling the ordeal with a mixture of horror and disbelief, several said they feared that they were going to die. Peter Harris of Swansea said: "I thought 'well see if there's someone believing in me upstairs'. I believe in Him now." Other drivers, recuperating in a hotel at Coquelles, praised the staff of the train, although some were sharply critical of the safety measures.

But Alain Bertrand, Eurotunnel's operations director, said: "Existing safety proce-

dures have worked pretty well in the sense that the efforts of all the people that tried to fight this fire have been exceptionally good, leading to the situation where everyone is out of hospital and able to be back home. No transport system in the world is totally safe."

Patrick Ponsolle, the president of Eurotunnel, also insisted that the company's safety standards were the highest possible. Describing the fire as an "unpleasant incident", he said the company's safety procedures had worked well. "We are of course sorry about the incident itself, but I am satisfied that it has demonstrated that the safety procedures in the tunnel are as strong as possible, as efficient as possible. Every endangered life has been preserved thanks to the quality of procedures," he said. He added, however, that the company was not ruling out a revision of its safety rules.

The Consumers' Association said the fire confirmed all their worst fears and claimed that the casualty levels could have been far worse if it had happened in a passenger shuttle. The association called on the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority to publish full details of Eurotunnel's application for an operating licence so that passengers could judge for themselves whether the tunnel was safe.

Safety aspects that will be considered by the inquiries include the open design of the freight shuttle wagons, which has concerned some MPs for years; the ventilation systems which should have prevented passengers being overcome by smoke, and the cargoes which are allowed to be carried through the tunnel.

The inquiries will also consider why British fire crews were not contacted by their French counterparts in Calais until 38 minutes after the start of the fire, which was not put out for 20 hours. Under official tunnel procedures, both of the special eight-strong French and English fire-fighting crews should have been alerted at once. Investigators may also consider whether a two-hour wild-cat strike among French Eurotunnel staff which ended immediately before the departure of the ill-fated train had any bearing on subsequent events.

The fire could not have come at a worse time for Eurotunnel, which is in the middle of delicate negotiations with its banks over its £9 billion debt. "I can't pretend that this is anything but bad news," one senior company source said. Shares in Eurotunnel, which peaked at £8.67 in June 1989 shed 3½p yesterday to close at 88p.

Survivors' tales, page 2
Black box inquiry, page 3
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Sonia Matczak back at home: "I really thought we were never going to get out"

Praise for the steward hero

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN LILLE



Grard: kept up permanent reassuring commentary

A PREGNANT woman injured in the Channel Tunnel tunnel fire was under observation in hospital in Lille last night along with a steward she said saved the lives of the passengers.

Sonia Matczak, 25, who is eight months pregnant, said: "The train stopped and I smelled burning plastic. Then I saw grey smoke curling up from under the doors and I knew there was a serious problem. I was not afraid at first, but when I realised we were trapped, I began to get very frightened. I really thought we were never going to get out of there."

"It was really strong, very acrid and we knew something terrible had gone wrong," Christian Proyart, 32, Mme Matczak's partner, said. "We had already heard the alarms

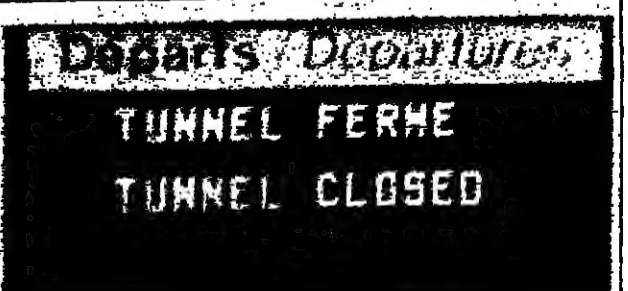
but didn't think anything of it."

As the smoke thickened, Emilie Grard, 43, chef de train, distributed dampened napkins which coughing lorry drivers clamped to their mouths and kept up a permanent reassuring commentary in French.

"Emilie was the real hero, he saved us all," Mme Matczak said from her hospital bed. "He was on the intercom to the driver the whole time, so he never covered his mouth. That's why he inhaled so much smoke," Peter Harris, 50, from Swansea, said. "If I could award a medal it would go to him."

"Normal procedure would be to keep on going to reach the other side as fast as

Continued on page 2, col 8



The sign that greeted drivers in Calais yesterday

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Island anger over women's Nazi betrayal

Newly released papers about the German occupation of the Channel Islands show that people on Jersey and Guernsey were outraged by the extent to which local women collaborated with German soldiers. Intelligence reports supplied by islanders who had escaped, or who were rescued by Allied troops while on their way to prisons in Germany, describe the women as "Jerrybags" or "troop carriers".

Snow brings chaos to Britain

By BILL FROST

ICY WINDS with the possibility of sleet and torrential rain are forecast for much of the country today as winter comes early to Britain. Temperatures should be generally higher than yesterday, but motorists are advised to use extreme caution.

Yesterday's cold snap left two people dead and tens of thousands of homes without power after heavy snow falls brought down power lines. Drifts 8ft deep were reported in the worst-hit areas

yesterday and, apart from the M62 motorway, all roads across the Pennines were closed.

Scores of minor accidents were reported and many drivers abandoned their vehicles as breakdown services were inundated with calls.

Another casualty of the weather was Harold "Dickie" Bird, the retired international cricket umpire, who yesterday was unable to collect his first honorary doctorate. He planned an early start to a trip

from Barnsley, Yorkshire, to Sheffield Hallam University, but was forced to wait for a taxi when heavy snow blocked his car in the garage. He said he was "devastated" at having to turn back after battling for two hours to travel just five of the 17 miles.

"I am so disappointed. When I got back I just slumped in my chair and cried," he said.

Two die in blizzards, page 9
Forecast, page 26

Inspectors back 'failed' GCSE school

The bottom school in today's national examination league tables has been praised by inspectors, who said that standards were rising even though no pupil has ever gained five high-grade GCSEs. Parkside School in Plymouth is the only comprehensive school in England with a zero score this year, but was found to "provide an education of good quality".

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'I thought I would never get out of there alive'

FROM JOANNA BALE IN CALAIS
AND BEN MACINTYRE IN LILLE

A RELIEVED British lorry driver said last night that he thought he was going to die in the Channel Tunnel fire. John Harvey, of Swadlowgate, Derbyshire, said: "I now know what it is like to come face to face with death."

He added: "I knew there wasn't much time left and remember thinking about my wife and children, but most of all my five-year-old granddaughter, Jade. I just thought I will never see Jade again and never see her grow up."

"Her face stayed in my mind and I thought it would be the last thing I would see. I can't wait to see her now and give her a big hug. I'm

just so grateful to be alive." Mr Harvey was one of 31 lorry drivers and their passengers who were travelling from Calais to Folkestone on a freight shuttle. All the drivers and their passengers were in the front restaurant carriage when the train stopped.

Emile Gerard, 43, the chef de train, opened the internal door, puzzled about the cause of the fire, and acrid black smoke poured in. "I shut the door again and told everyone not to panic. I must admit there was a lot of fear," he said.

The drivers were told to lie on the floor and put wet napkins over their faces. They lay there for 14

minutes. "I was a minute from choking to death," Mr Harvey said. "It is as simple as that. I can talk about it now but back in the tunnel I was just resigned to dying. I could not see any way I was going to get out alive."

"I tried to splash water over my face in the toilets to stay conscious before we were evacuated. The smoke was thick and the fumes just seemed to squeeze my chest, making breathing impossible."

"We were all slowly dying and if the decision had not been taken to get us out of the carriage there would be a lot of dead bodies in the tunnel now. It is the most terrifying

experience of my life and how I survived I will never know."

The drivers said they had kicked and punched companions who showed signs of being overcome by the fumes. "When it looked like they were losing consciousness you really had to use force to wake them up. It wasn't just the smoke, but this burning plastic smell," Brian Williams, 49, from Ashford, Kent, said. "We are all used to working on our own but if everyone hadn't helped everyone else in there we'd all be dead now."

Jeff Waghorn, 32, from Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, added: "We were getting light-headed. Another five minutes, and I think there would have been a proper disaster. It felt like a lifetime when you're lying

there looking at your life and wondering whether you're going to get out alive."

Some of the drivers detached an emergency pickaxe and wanted to break open a window but were prevented by the cabin staff. "They said it would be even worse, but by the end no one had the strength to lift an axe," Mr Williams said.

Others pointed out that the emergency exit to the service tunnel was just feet from the train door. "We could have got across in ten seconds, or less, holding our breath. The smoke we inhaled was already in the cabin," Mick Terry, 53, from South Ockendon, Essex, said. Ian Edwards, 53, condemned safety standards on the train and said he would have to be convinced

that they had been improved before he would use the tunnel again. He criticised the lack of oxygen equipment and sprinkler systems, although he said that the train staff had done a good job.

Mr Edwards's fellow driver, Brian Shilton, 46, also from Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, shared his criticism of the lack of oxygen and sprinklers. Mr Shilton said the smoke in the compartment was so thick that it was impossible to see more than 6ft. "It was like being in a tomb," he said. "We were really frightened, that was the very closest I've ever come to death. I thought my time was up."

He joined the other drivers in praising the steward and stewardess. "The poor bloke who was the

Fire teams faced intense heat and debris in darkness

By RICHARD DUCE

THE RESCUE

THE apparent delay of almost an hour in summoning help from Kent Fire Brigade will be one of the aspects studied by the Channel Tunnel fire investigation.

After the blaze was discovered at 9.04pm on Monday, firemen based at the English and French terminals were dispatched to investigate, but it was not until 10.02 that Eurotunnel, the operators, alerted Kent fire brigade at its headquarters in Maidstone, 30 miles from Folkestone.

Peter Coombes, deputy chief officer of Kent fire brigade, said yesterday: "There is no reason to suggest the French were in anyway wrong in the way they responded to the incident, but we would expect to be called as soon as possible."

Speaking soon after the fire was officially said to be extinguished at 10.30am yesterday, Mr Coombes said of the delay: "I don't see it as a fly in the ointment. When we are called is the responsibility of others. Clearly there is a question mark."

A binational safety agreement stipulates that emergency services on both sides of the tunnel should be alerted imm-

mediately. Mr Coombes explained yesterday that Eurotunnel retained eight Kent officers on contract at its Folkestone terminal and they were sent to the scene some 13 kilometres into the tunnel on the French side.

They were the so-called first line of response and would have taken about half an hour to travel the 31 kilometres from the English terminal. After their arrival, it was then some 25 minutes before the second line of response was mobilised by Eurotunnel's emergency call. About 100 firefighters were then drafted in from stations at Hythe, Folkestone, Dover and Ashford. They would have reached the fire at about 11pm to assist their French colleagues. They travelled to the scene through the service tunnel on special vehicles provided by Eurotunnel.

Bill Welch, the divisional commander in charge of the English operation underground, yesterday described the conditions that confronted his men. "I have never seen anything like it. The heat was intense and all the lights had gone out. There was fallen



John Harvey, a lorry driver, was "so grateful to be alive" yesterday as he recovered in a Calais hospital

Five deadly hazards of inhalation

DEATH and injury in fires is more often the result of inhaling the noxious, hot atmosphere that burns and scalds the lungs and poisons the system than from damage to the tissues by flames. Sixty-five per cent of fire deaths result from the inhalation of smoke and fumes: in the case of house fires 85 per cent of the fatalities, and a similar proportion of injuries, stem from smoke inhalation. All the casualties of the Channel Tunnel fire are victims of smoke inhalation.

All materials when burnt give off carbon monoxide, the poisonous gas that is responsible for deaths in the home when inefficient heating devices are used. The materials also give rise to various irritant and toxic chemicals, but the composition of the cocktail of injurious gases depends not only on the



MEDICAL BRIEFING

material but also on the temperature of the fire. This in turn is the consequence of the amount of oxygen available. If the oxygen is in short supply, as could happen in a tunnel, the gases given off are likely to be more deadly, as they may be the result of incomplete combustion.

Peter Fardell, of the Fire Research Station at Watford, said there were five hazards in the atmosphere during a fire. The first danger is that the flames may have released narcotic gases. As well as carbon monoxide, these gases often include hydrogen cyanide released when sub-

stances such as wool or nylon are burnt.

Smoke is an irritant, affecting not only the eyes and skin, but the whole length of the respiratory tract from the trachea to the smallest alveoli in the lungs. The sufferer has a sore throat, croaky voice and, much more worryingly, pneumonia—inflammation and swelling of the lung tissue.

As well as these irritants, organic chemicals discharged into the atmosphere can irritate the lungs. Aldehydes are given off by foods, and styrene by polystyrene. Polystyrene, if burnt slowly

because of fire retardants or lack of oxygen, releases the deadly styrene.

When PCC burns it releases hydrogen chloride acid: if this is inhaled it can dissolve the lungs. Smoke contains particulate matter, small particles of solid and liquid material that are deposited in the lungs and continue to cause trouble for weeks or months.

Finally, the heat of the fire damages the lungs. Surprisingly, very dry heat is less damaging than a moist heat. When there is a fire there is inevitably water, so that the atmosphere becomes saturated with very hot water, which can scald the lungs rather than burn them.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Matthew Parris is on page 12

Damage is likely to disrupt journeys for several weeks

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

DELAYS

TRAVEL through the Channel Tunnel was due to resume today but the service will be severely limited and disruption is expected for weeks as the damage is repaired.

Eurostar, which takes passengers only, and Le Shuttle, which carries vehicles, were expected to run less than half their normal timetables. Eurostar said it believed it would be able to cope with all passengers who already had tickets, but would not be taking new bookings until Friday at

least. Le Shuttle will not accept new customers until Monday. Both were offering to reschedule journeys or provide refunds.

Long delays yesterday angered Eurostar travellers who had been waiting at Waterloo International Terminal for up to four hours. Richard Pinney, from Newbury, Berkshire, who was planning a two-day holiday in Paris, said: "This is chaos. The Eurostar people here

don't know what is going on. Why didn't they make alternative arrangements earlier, instead of leaving us waiting around until now?"

Many French and Belgian travellers said they had no hotels to go to and no money to buy food. Dirk Vestdock, from Brussels, said he had heard planes to Brussels and Paris would be laid on. "But I'm waiting for that to be confirmed. It seems like Eurostar were waiting until we got fed up and went away, so they did not have to pay for flights."

Passengers queuing to catch a

special train to Gatwick from where flights would leave said they wished there had been better communication from Eurostar. Paul Clark, a lecturer from the University of Leeds who was travelling to Paris for a conference, said he was still not confident of getting there last night.

Eurostar, which laid on three charter flights to Paris and two to Brussels, advised customers with tickets to travel only if absolutely necessary. It said last night that everyone who had wanted to travel had been able to do so. Some

passengers were taken by Eurostar flights to leave said they wished there had been better communication from Eurostar. Paul Clark, a lecturer from the University of Leeds who was travelling to Paris for a conference, said he was still not confident of getting there last night.

Eurostar, which laid on three charter flights to Paris and two to Brussels, advised customers with tickets to travel only if absolutely necessary. It said last night that everyone who had wanted to travel had been able to do so. Some



French firemen travelled in this type of vehicle

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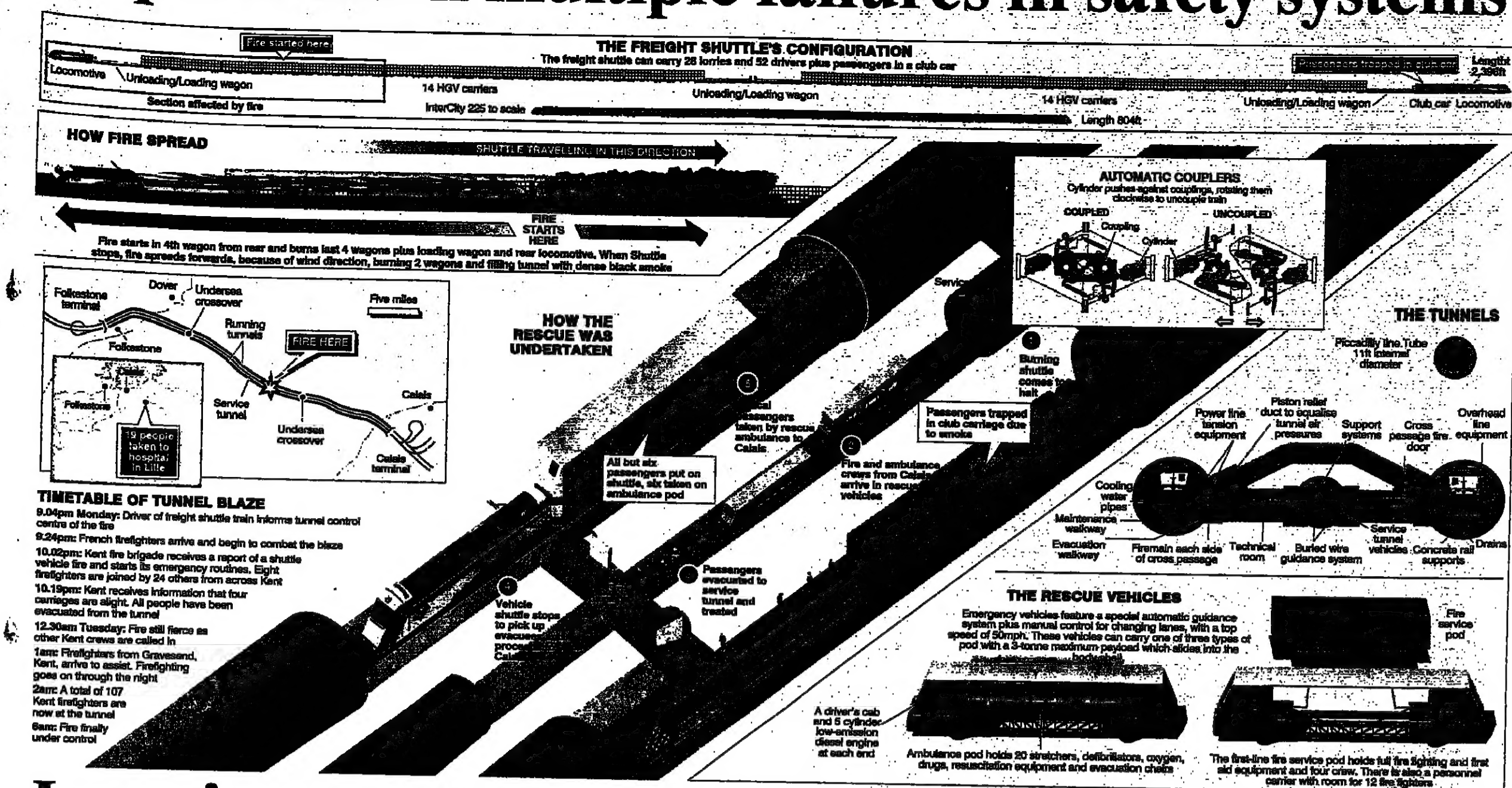
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صحنات الامل

Experts claim multiple failures in safety systems



Investigators study three black boxes for accident clues

By JONATHAN PRYNN
AND JOANNA BAILE

FRENCH accident investigators were last night studying data from three "black box" computers recovered from the Channel Tunnel freight train engulfed by flames on Monday night.

The boxes, taken from the undamaged front locomotive, should explain why the blazing train stopped in the tunnel and why advanced safety systems designed to protect passengers from smoke and toxic fumes failed to work.

The black boxes record all conversations between the driver and the control rooms at Calais and Folkestone, signal authorisations through the tunnel and fault indicators from instruments such as fire detectors. Boxes from the rear fire-damaged locomotive have not been recovered and may be too badly burnt to yield much information.

Investigations yesterday centred on the reasons why the decoupling mechanism failed to allow passengers and crew in the front locomotive and carriage to drive away, leaving the blazing carriages behind. There was also concern that tunnel ventilation systems failed to create a pocket of clean air around the stranded locomotive and lorry driver compartment, leaving those on board gasping in choking fumes.

Safety experts said there had been "multiple failures"

INQUIRY

In the systems Eurotunnel had put in place to persuade the Anglo-French Channel Tunnel Safety Authority to grant the company a licence.

The Channel freight trains are designed to allow a swift getaway from the scene of a fire by the front locomotive and "club car" — the carriage where lorry drivers spend the half-hour crossing — immediately behind it. In the event of a fire on a freight wagon, the driver is supposed to press a button in the cab activating a hydraulically powered decoupler. This allows the locomotive and club car to drive away from the blaze in an "escape capsule", leaving behind the burning freight wagons, which have no fire extinguishers on board.

Georges Shazou, group managing director for Eurotunnel, said a power failure caused by the fire stopped the decoupling system from working. "We lost power. Our inquiry will give us the exact details as to why this happened."

One theory is that the rear locomotive was so badly damaged that there was not enough power available to activate the decoupler. Alternatively, the decoupling may have taken place but damage to the overhead power lines meant the front locomotive could not be driven forward. However, even with the

train stranded in the tunnel, those on board should have been protected from the smoke by the computer-operated ventilation system. This is triggered by sensors placed every 100 metres along the wall of the tunnel that continuously analyses the air for signs of smoke.

The system overrides the normal circulation of air — in the same direction of travel as the train — and pumps fresh air into the section of the tunnel nearest the passengers from the service tunnel. At the same time, giant fans are supposed to blow the smoke away.

Anne Leva, a Eurotunnel spokeswoman, insisted that the system had worked but said the doors to the club car had been opened by a steward before it had a chance to disperse the smoke. "Had the steward waited a few seconds more, more smoke would have cleared," she said.

The shortfalls have raised fresh concerns about the safety of the half-mile lattice-sided freight trains. They have been criticised by safety groups for not offering enough protection against the spread of fire. The wagons have girders on each side to keep the weight down and do not have internal doors, allowing fires to spread rapidly. Enclosed wagons, which are used for passenger services, would have been too heavy for the trains' axles to bear when loaded with fully laden lorries.

Bill Dix, the commercial director of Eurotunnel, said that the company would have no choice but to replace the freight trains if their design proved to be a factor in the rapid spread of the fire. In 1992 Eurotunnel fought a long battle with the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority before being allowed to use the Canadian-built trains. Fires in tunnels are difficult to put out because the enclosed space means that heat cannot be dissipated and temperatures often exceed 1,000C.



A lattice-sided Channel Tunnel freight train

Eurotunnel will review risks

By NICK NUTTALL

RICHARD MORRIS, the former safety chief at Eurotunnel and now a director, said that the company would review the list of hazardous substances and materials allowed in the Channel Tunnel.

Nearly 1,000 hazardous substances are already banned or restricted. There was speculation yesterday that a cargo of polystyrene combusted spontaneously, triggering the blaze.

Mr Morris said that if this proved to be the culprit, the company might review carrying it as a cargo. He rejected

DAINGER LOADS

suggestions that commerce was being put before safety. Nuclear waste and highly flammable substances are banned from the tunnel. Whisky, paint and some other hazardous and flammable materials are carried in restricted quantities.

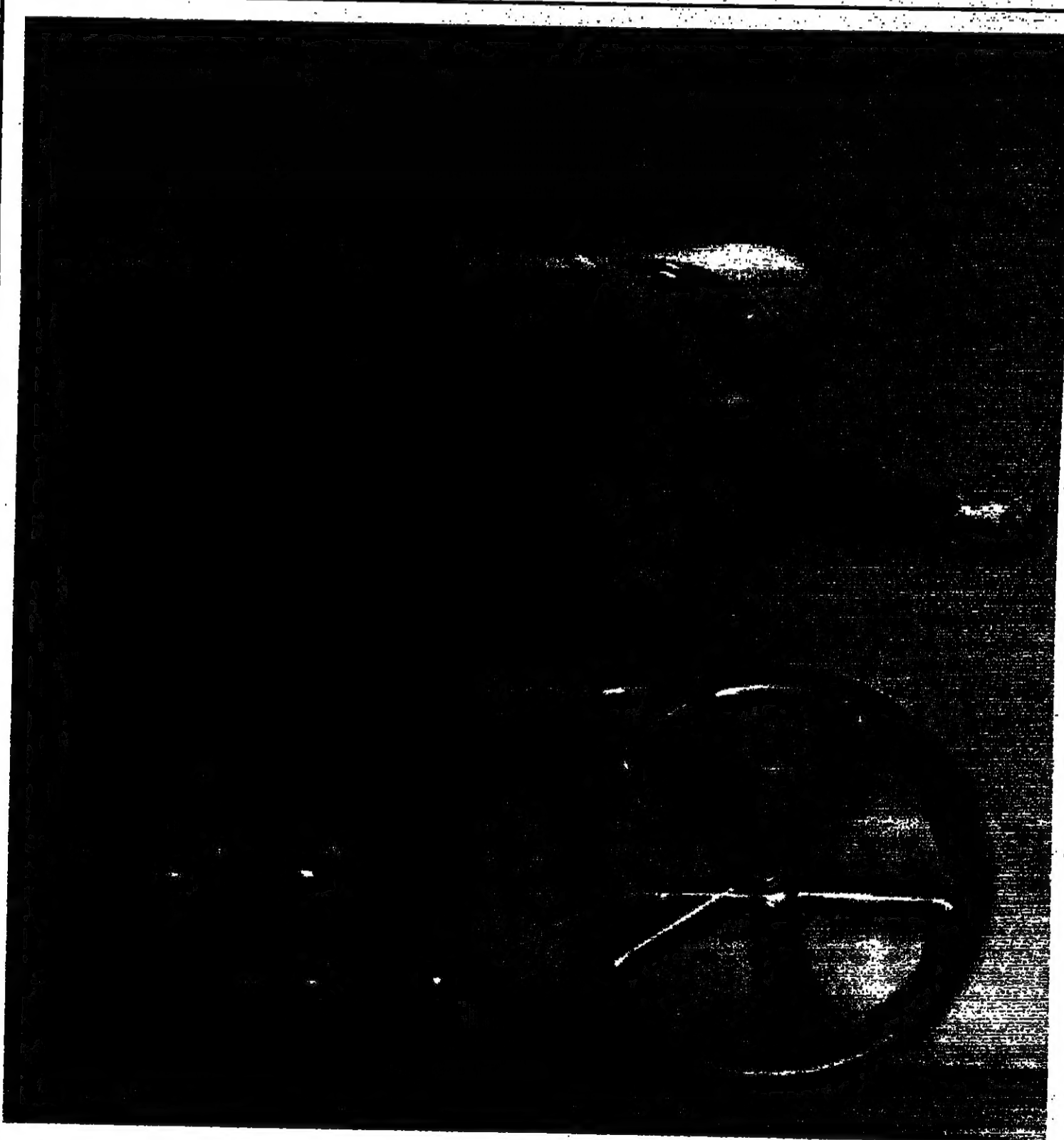
David Mathews, national health and safety officer of the Fire Brigade Union, said an urgent review of the kinds of hazardous substances carried would be welcome. A whole range of them were allowed through the tunnel, he said.

A review of the wagons that

carry freight was also needed, he said. The existing wagons, which have lattice-like walls and roofs rather than being solid, made it difficult to control a blaze and to stop it spreading to other wagons.

Eurotunnel has drafted a manual for hauliers that spells out which hazardous substances are welcome, restricted or banned. Goods vehicles face spot checks to see if they are carrying undeclared hazardous loads.

The Freight Transport Association said last night that the rules had been drawn up in consultation with its members. "I believe we have the right balance."



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Bathory The Gladstone
Bathory The Bull

03

Melly wins fire fight for bedsit artist

Landlord to pay for burnt works

By PAUL WILKINSON

A STRUGGLING artist who could not pay the rent on his bedsit lost six years' work when his landlord made a bonfire of his paintings. Yesterday, however, after the jazz singer and art critic George Melly compared Craig Richards' work to that of Picasso, a judge ordered the landlord to pay him more than £22,000 in compensation.

Leeds County Court had been told that Mr Richards, 33, had given up college at 19 to devote his life to surrealist art. He formed a movement with another artist called the Non-Euclidean.

Mr Melly, who had travelled more than 300 miles to speak for Mr Richards, told the court: "I am very impressed with his work. I realise he is not yet selling much but van Gogh only sold one of his paintings in his lifetime and I don't see Craig cutting off his ear just yet."

"If Picasso's landlord had come in and decided to burn his studio, millions of pounds' worth of art would have been lost. I am not making silly parallels. Craig in my opinion is that good." Mr Melly, who wore a bright purple suit for the occasion, said: "What his landlord did was an act of mindless vandalism and I find it sickening."

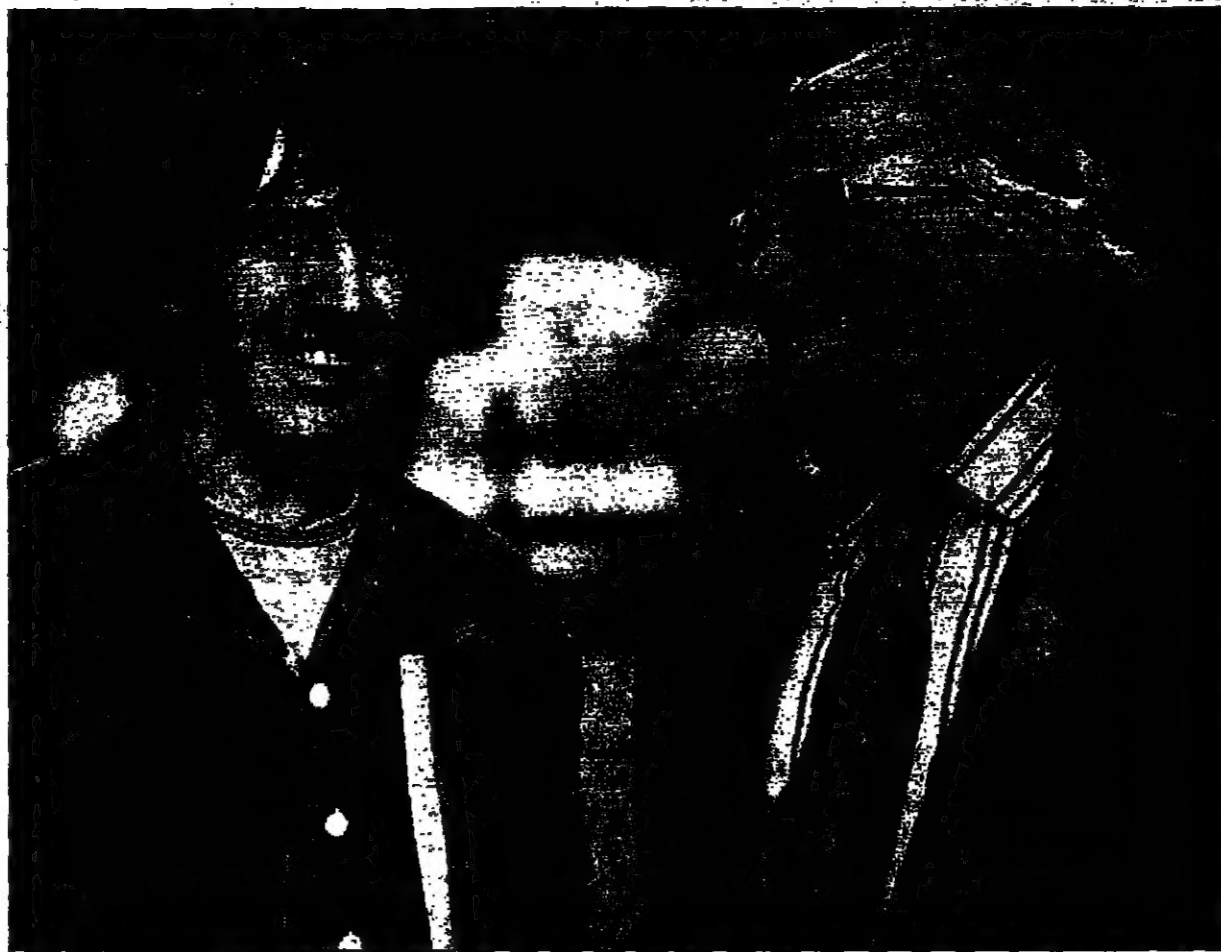
Judge Bellamy had been told that Mr Richards was on the point of a nervous break-

down after his landlord, Mohammed Razaq, the owner of the property where he lived in Leeds, had burnt his paintings. Mr Richards, who now lives in Robin Hood's Bay, north Yorkshire, and was suing Mr Razaq for damages, said: "I've sold about 300 paintings in my 14-year career. The loss of my work has put me back five years. No one has the right to destroy my work."

He had worked in his bedsit, producing countless works and a book of poetry, most of which he had left behind when he went on tour in Europe with a pop group. He had left a note for Mr Razaq saying that he would settle the rent on his return. But when he came back he found the locks changed and his belongings gone.

Judge Bellamy said: "He has essentially had the stuff knocked out of him. He did have an emotional illness. This affected his ability to work. On the basis of this, I award £22,000. The sketchbooks were an essential part of Mr Richards' work and it seems straightforward to allow £10 per hour for the 1,423 hours he put into the sketchbooks. I am also allowing £150 for the 21 nights that Mr Richards was locked out of his flat."

"I have examined the evidence from Mr Melly. What-



Craig Richards and George Melly, who described the destruction of the artist's work as vandalism

over a layman's view would be, he is a man of wide experience in this area. He prepared a written report, which gives me no reason to change my opinion. Mr Richards' work is forceful and eloquent. Picasso's work would have had little value in 1900.

"He conceded the work of

the Non-Euclidean is not yet sought after, but he regarded the act of getting rid of the paintings as sickening. Mr Melly said in his report that 90 per cent of modern work did not affect him, but 10 per cent still excited him. Mr Richards was in this 10 per cent.

"I am satisfied on the basis of Mr Melly's evidence that

Mr Richards' work will sell in the future. I therefore grant monetary compensation. In this matter, the total judgment being £22,380. The award included £5,000 for aggravated and exemplary damages."

Gerry Heap, for Mr Razaq, had argued that it was impossible to put a price on the paintings. He said: "Why £10

per hour? Because George Melly says so?" He said it was unlikely many of the paintings would have sold. "On his own evidence he has sold very few. With the exception of Bury Art Gallery, who made him Painter of the Year 1995, and a long-distance bike rider who bought two of his paintings, he has not had much success."

Widow 'saw her stolen candelabra' in catalogue

By TIM JONES

THE elderly widow of a French viscount told the High Court yesterday that a pair of rare candelabra that were to have been sold at Sotheby's had been stolen from her chateau ten years ago.

Nicole De Preval, 80, is suing Adrian Alari, a London dealer, for the return of the candelabra, which she says have been in her family for 150 years. She says she recognised the pair, valued at £60,000, in a Sotheby's catalogue two years ago.

Mr Alari, who has a gallery in central London, claims he bought them legitimately in 1984 from a gallery in New York, paying £5,000. He contends that Mme De Preval is mistaken in her identification and refuses to hand them back to her.

Michael Gettleton, for Mme De Preval, said the marble and gilt bronzed set, which was "exceptional with a number of idiosyncratic features", was made by the sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye as a gift to her great-grandfather, a successful industrialist, for rescuing him from penury.

Mr Gettleton said Mr Alari's story was hard to believe, as the candelabras were unique. "It would be in the highest degree surprising if other candelabra of a similar type were made." He added that she could produce bills dating back to 1855 to prove ownership. The case continues.



Lange in love with role

Hollywood star fulfils her desire

AN OSCAR-WINNING actress has been lured to the London stage after she fell in love with a character "who enters in the throes of a nervous breakdown and goes downhill from there".

Jessica Lange, who won Oscars for her roles in *Blue Sky* and *Tootsie*, and who has had six Academy Award nominations, started rehearsals this week for the part of Blanche Du Bois in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. "I have never played a part that I liked more than this," she said. "I have never fallen in love with a character more than I did with Blanche."

Lange will make her West End debut in the role she played on Broadway, alongside Imogen Stubbs and Toby Stephens. Sir Peter Hall, who is directing the production, said: "It's a play I've always wanted to do. I think it's one of the masterpieces of the 20th century."

The London production opens on December 30 at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket.

Killer stabbed student 'to appease jealous boyfriend'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE killer of Rachael Lean wept as she told a jury yesterday how she stabbed the 18-year-old student to death on a woodland path. Maria Hnatuk, 29, said the attack happened after her boyfriend said that Miss Lean "had to die".

She said that Ian Wells was jealous of her relationship with Miss Lean and said that if she "wanted any life at all, Rachael would have to be dead".

Miss Lean's estranged parents, Peter and Vanessa, listened in the public gallery as Hnatuk told the jury at Norwich Crown Court that there was no forethought to her attack. Hnatuk, who admits manslaughter but denies murder, said: "I pulled out the knife and started stabbing her in the back and she turned around and called out my name. I just carried on stabbing her." A few days before the attack, which was

carried out near the perimeter fence at RAF Coltishall in Norfolk on September 5 last year, the two women had gone to a nightclub in Norwich. Hnatuk said Mr Wells, 32, then began complaining about her relationship with Miss Lean.

Hnatuk said she telephoned Miss Lean and arranged to meet her at the RAF base. Hnatuk caught a bus there and she and Miss Lean, of Buxton, Norfolk, shared briefly outside the Naad building before walking off together. "She was saying about her father being in Bosnia and that she was worried about him. She didn't know what was happening with the relationship between her father and her mother, whether they were going to get back together or not."

The pair walked down a country lane and then turned to walk back. Hnatuk said: "It kept going around in my

mind about what Ian had been saying to me about she has to be dead and if she is not dead you can't carry on and you are going to have nothing." Hnatuk said she dragged Miss Lean's body behind a tree after the attack and covered her with undergrowth. She said Miss Lean's leggings had come down while she dragged the body along the ground. The trial continues.

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Inspectors praise school at bottom of GCSE league

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE bottom school in today's national examination league tables was praised by inspectors, who said that standards were rising even though no pupil has ever gained five high-grade GCSEs.

Parkside School in Plymouth opened in 1993 after the merger of two schools that between them did not have a single pupil who had passed five good GCSEs. Since then it has failed to register on the five-pass scale and is the only comprehensive school in England with a zero score this year.

Yet, while more than 200 schools have failed inspections by the Office for Standards in Education, Parkside was found to "provide an education of good quality". When inspectors visited the school a year after it opened, they judged more than 80 per cent of lessons to be satisfactory.

The official report of the inspection recorded that teaching was "generally good and in some cases very good". However, the inspectors noted: "The work of even the ablest and most enthusiastic pupils is frequently marred by the persistence of elementary errors of grammar, spelling and punctuation and careless presentation."

Ofsted said yesterday that there were no plans for a full reinspection, although inspectors have been back to check on the school's progress. Parkside's examination and



Tony Darby, head of Banovallum School, whose GCSE scores improved most

truancy records had ensured that it joined the 8 per cent of schools classified as having "serious weaknesses".

Simon Jenkin, Devon's chief education officer, said yesterday that the inspectors' findings showed that Parkside was not failing. "It is an improving school in which I have every confidence."

David Jamieson, the Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport and a former head

teacher in the city, also came to Parkside's defence. He said that none of his constituents had ever complained about the school.

However, none of this year's 35 GCSE candidates passed five GCSEs at grade C or above. Ten left without any qualifications.

Almost two thirds of schools in today's tables improved their scores. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Em-

ployment Secretary, said that the publication of results was driving up standards. "This morning, thousands of teachers will be taking quiet satisfaction from the fact that their schools can be seen to have improved. Others, I hope, will be reflecting on the fact that they have not done so well — and will be planning to put things right," she said.

Nationally, 44.5 per cent of 16-year-olds passed five high-

grade GCSEs, a rise of one percentage point on last year. With the average A-level score also rising, pass rates increased for the fifth year in succession.

Almost 100 schools saw all their candidates pass the equivalent of five O levels. Three schools tied for the best A-level score: St Swithun's School in Winchester; King Edward VI High School for Girls; and King Edward's School, both in Birmingham.

The tables show spectacular improvements at some schools. The biggest leap in GCSE scores came at Banovallum School in Horncastle, Lincolnshire, which takes those who fail to win a place at the neighbouring Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. This year 39 per cent of its GCSE candidates secured five good passes, compared with 11 per cent in 1995.

Peter Kilfoyle, Labour's education spokesman, said: "Today's league tables do show some improvement, and I congratulate the schools, teachers and local education authorities that have contributed to that improvement. However, we are still well behind where we should be to meet our own targets, let alone match the standards achieved by our international competitors."

A 24-page Schools Report supplement to today's edition of *The Times* gives the GCSE and A-level results of more than 5,000 schools and colleges in England and Wales.

Selection deal to settle Boat Race troubled waters

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD and Cambridge universities are poised to end 168 years of a gentleman's agreement by accepting a formal accord on eligibility for the Boat Race.

The recruitment of outstanding oarsmen, which triggered the 1987 Oxford mutiny featured in the film *True Blue*, has become increasingly contentious since Cambridge, winner of the past four races, introduced rowing bursaries in 1994.

Negotiations between the two universities started after Dan Topolski, Oxford's director of coaching, described these payments last April as "an irritant because it's taking the Boat Race perhaps in a direction it shouldn't go".

Steve Royle, Oxford's director of rowing, said yesterday: "The negotiations are going well. Both sides have decided it needs to be resolved. We are hoping to achieve a level playing field. We are laying down an agreement that both clubs will honour."

"In the past it has been a gentleman's agreement. This is not suggesting that we are no longer gentlemen but we have to be a little bit more professional because we have sponsors and a massive audience now." The 1996 race attracted 6.5 million television viewers in Britain, the same as most Five Nations Rugby Union internationals. It was also screened in 160 other countries.

Only one Cambridge oars-

man, Ethan Ayer, the American club president and at 6ft 8½ins the tallest man to row in the race, has a bursary this year. Up to £6,000, raised by old Blues, can be available annually for an applicant, although the university has always pointed out that normal academic standards have to be met. The Oxford boat club does not offer bursaries.

The eligibility rules will also cover students doing short-term courses. Both universities are offering an increasing number of one-year postgraduate diplomas. The European Union has set up the Erasmus scholarships, in which an undergraduate from a member country can receive funding for doing a single term in any university in another EU country. An outstanding foreign oarsman could be recruited just for the Lent term to row in the Boat Race.

Topolski, the most successful Oxford coach and the man at the centre of the 1987 mutiny, said yesterday: "The representatives of the universities are friends who are interested in the same thing — a marvellous event. However, everything has got out of hand. We must be clear in our minds what we all want."

Dr John Marks, the senior treasurer to the Cambridge University Boat Club, said: "We are close to getting a joint understanding."

Leading article, page 21

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



THE NEW KENNEDYS
James Bone on the couple who could revive Kennedy glamour



BABY CUISINE
Top chefs give their recipes for children

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Universities shut as dons join porters in strike over pay deal

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY and college staff, from porters to professors, staged the first general strike in the new British higher education system yesterday.

Unions said that the action was supported by 100,000 members and said that up to 150 institutions were paralysed by their protest over a 1.5

per cent pay offer. There were picket lines at many universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, and a shutdown of universities in Wales.

Vice-chancellors called the action "misdirected". Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said the staff should support its lobbying of ministers for a reversal of last year's 2.1 per cent funding cut for higher educa-

tion. The committee has delayed until after the Budget a decision on whether to charge all new students in 1997 a £300 joining fee to make up some of the shortfall.

Steve Rouse, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association, said he saw little prospect of a revised offer. "Without additional funding there cannot be a change in the offer."

The National Union of Students supported the strike, which was backed in a vote by 97 out of 103 college unions. Some university services were opened for students by a skeleton staff, although it was the skeleton of British higher education which was presented to the headquarters of the vice-chancellors' committee in London by striking dons.

The strike will be followed by a "work to contract" campaign in which employees will refuse to co-operate outside their official hours.

Simon Jenkins, page 20

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PEOPLES
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Reynolds wins libel case but faces £1m legal bill

By A STAFF REPORTER

ALBERT REYNOLDS, the former Irish Prime Minister, is out of pocket to the tune of £1 million, despite winning a libel action against *The Sunday Times* yesterday.

The jury found in his favour but awarded him no damages. Unbeknown to them, he had already refused a payment into court of £5,000 by the newspaper. That decision makes him liable to pay the costs of the litigation, which involved three leading QCs, after the date of the payment. The costs are estimated unofficially at more than £1 million.

Mr Reynolds, 64, who had been accused by *The Sunday Times* of lying to the Dail, showed no emotion at the jury's verdict, which came after 18 hours' deliberation. He said at the end of the 24-day hearing at the High Court in London: "I took this case to clear my good name and uphold my reputation. I am pleased that the jury agreed that I am not a liar. Anyone who calls me a liar will have to prove it."

Asked if he thought that the costs made the action worthwhile, he replied: "There is a price to be paid for the truth and I was prepared to pay that price. But however much must be paid remains to be seen." When it was suggested he might have been better off accepting the £5,000 offer, he replied: "That is an insult."

Mr Reynolds had sued over a report in November 1994 headed "Goodbye, gombeen man. Why a fib too far proved fatal". He said it was a "horrible, vicious, vilifying article which it was unnecessary to write".

The newspaper said that he did not give the full facts when he defended Harry Whelehan — then recently promoted from Attorney-General to



Albert Reynolds outside the High Court yesterday

President of the High Court — against criticism for delays in extraditing Brendan Smyth, a paedophile priest. Mr Whelehan's explanation that he had not seen the file or been told about it, and that it was a complex issue with no precedent, was all he knew when he first addressed the Dail, Mr Reynolds said. He did not get clear advice

from his new Attorney-General, Eoghan Fitzsimons, about a replica case that Mr Whelehan had previously dealt with until that night, and that was conveyed to the Dail the next day. He denied deceiving his Labour coalition partner, Dick Spring, and some of his colleagues about his state of knowledge. The newspaper denied libel.

pleading qualified privilege and justification. It argued that Mr Reynolds knew enough the day before he spoke to the Dail to form the view that Mr Whelehan should not be sworn in as President of the High Court. Mr Reynolds said in evidence that he felt "just absolutely dreadful" when he read the story. "A liar. I don't know of any worse thing people could say of me."

His counsel, Lord Williams, QC, said Mr Reynolds would "deny and deny and deny again" that he lied to the Dail. Mr Reynolds was not a lawyer and had relied on others for definitive advice.

Lord Williams said *The Sunday Times* had done a "monstrous thing" in printing the article, which, he said, contained the offensive epithet "gombeen man", which the newspaper interpreted as "the local fixer with a finger in every pie".

He said that the newspaper had "mugged" Mr Reynolds with a "knife" belonging to Fergus Finlay, Mr Spring's aide, who was a source for the article. He suggested that Mr Reynolds be awarded damages of £45,000 as an "absolute base minimum".

James Price, QC, for the newspaper, which said that its story was full and accurate, portrayed Mr Reynolds as a gambler with a "streak of recklessness". He went on: "Does Mr Reynolds take responsibility for what he does? Or does he blame others — the Eoghan Fitzsimonses — honest men, distinguished men, going about their job in difficult circumstances?"

He told the jury that any damages award should be very small, akin to the sum of £3,000 Mr Reynolds would have received if he had been physically mugged and had his jaw broken.

Keen racegoer had made £150,000 on winning streak in the courts

By AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A REGULAR at Cheltenham races, Albert Reynolds has both won and lost in his latest courtroom gamble. Victory has come at a hefty price, even for a rich man. He is a director of Irish and international companies and earns up to £18,000 for each lecture on the international circuit discussing his role in bringing about the 18-month IRA ceasefire which began in August 1994.

Mr Reynolds, 64, Prime Minister until the coalition Government collapsed two years ago, is very defensive of his public reputation. He regularly has solicitors' letters sent to journalists writing about him and his family. Before the case against *The Sunday Times*, he had successfully challenged four newspapers, other publications and broadcasters for libel on five occasions. He has received

about £150,000 in damages. Five years ago, he won £70,000 from *The Sunday Times*; he has twice taken action against the *Irish Times*, which paid about £50,000; he has received £10,000 from the publishers of *The Guinness Book of Political Blunders*; and, while in court in London, Mr Reynolds received £20,000 from Radio Tara, based in Co Meath and broadcasting to the United Kingdom. He recently bought a house on one of Dublin's most select streets for about £600,000. Dubliners have dubbed it "Lingard Lodge".

His case against *The Sunday Times* received widespread coverage in the Irish media. People anxiously awaited the verdict, but bookmakers decided not to take bets because there were too many possible outcomes.

Born in Rosky, Co Roscommon, in 1932, Mr Reynolds is married with five daughters and two sons. More a

businessman than a politician, he sees everything as a deal open to negotiation.

In business, his strategy helped to create a highly profitable family enterprise, C&D Foods in Longford. Mr Reynolds's home town, makes pet food for companies such as Sainsbury's. He also has directorships in China, Strategic Holdings, a Hong Kong-based company which owns a majority interest in some 140 Chinese companies.

But whether this strategy worked in politics has left opinion divided. He is greatly praised for his success on the Northern Ireland question, but damned for his treatment of domestic affairs.

Within minutes of the verdict reaching Ireland, his supporters complained that it was impossible for an Irishman to receive a fair trial in London. Callers to RTE radio said the verdict was typical of British justice: Mr Reynolds was innocent but he still had to foot the bill.

Church may buy brewery shares to fight teen drinks

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is considering relaxing its century-old ban on investing in the brewery and distillery trades, so that it can exert more influence against under-age drinking.

Clergy are concerned over the burgeoning trade in low-alcohol lemonades and other drinks, known as alcopops, which many fear are encouraging youngsters to drink to excess. In a report to be debated by the General Synod next summer, the ethical investment group of the Church Commissioners, who manage the Church's assets, recommends a selective easing of the ban. They suggest that it be lifted in the case of brewing and distilling sectors of companies that derive "significant turnover" from other activities.

The report, which has been given a cautious welcome by bishops, says: "This would allow the Church, as an investor, to make a positive contribution to the issues being debated within the industry." The investors are



Harries supports easing 100-year investment ban

keen "to have dialogue with companies about their policies in respect of excessive consumption and advertising, particularly that directed at the young".

But the group, chaired by Sir Michael Colman, the First Church Estates Commissioner, advised against bingo being allowed at a new leisure site on the commissioners' former agricultural land at Cheshire Oaks. Last year the group recommended that the Church should withdraw its investments in BSKB.

The Right Rev Richard

Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, who once sued the commissioners over their ethical investment policy because he felt they were not accountable enough, said he supported easing the breweries ban. Bishop Harries, a patron of the Christian Ethical Investment Group, a separate body from that responsible for the report, said: "As a person who enjoys their drink, I have always felt it is slightly illogical to have a ban on the breweries sector. Breweries have moved much more into the whole entertainments business. And if the Church is in that sector, it might be able to do more to stop under-age drinking."

Church leaders are concerned that any relaxation should not be misinterpreted as endorsing alcohol consumption. Investing in breweries and distilleries has been prohibited since 1948, when the commissioners began investing in equities. The policy is also followed by the Church's Board of Finance and its pensions board. Other banned investments include gambling, armaments, tobacco and newspapers.

Rustlers gobble up turkeys

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TURKEY farmers have been warned to look out for rustlers eager to exploit high prices caused by a shortage of farm-fresh birds for Christmas.

Hundreds of birds have been stolen from farms in the West Country, where Devon and Cornwall police have stepped up patrols at turkey farms and urged farmers to tighten security. Consumption

of turkey has surged this year with consumers switching to alternative meats after fears over "mad cow" disease.

Paul Cooper, a National Farmers' Union poultry specialist, said: "We always get some rustling, but this year the birds are fetching up to £50 each and offer particularly attractive pickings for thieves."

The biggest robbery recorded so far was at a farm near Credon, Devon, which lost about 300 birds between six

and eight weeks old during a night raid in September. Andrew Gray, assistant manager at Elston Farm, said: "We have had to spend £600 on a security system. I slept with the turkeys for several nights until the system was up and running."

Farm-fresh turkeys for the catering trade are fetching about £1 a lb, 20 per cent up on last year, while birds are selling to butchers at £1.48 a lb, about 10 per cent up.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman referee charged

A woman referee who showed with male players has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association. Janet Fewings, 41, of Exeter, said she was forced to use the same showers at some games because of a lack of facilities.

After reports that she was upsetting girlfriends and wives, she was banned from the touchline by the FA.

Dog owner hurt

A woman suffered serious head injuries after being hit by a car as she cradled her dead dog, itself run over by a car, in Clifton, Greater Manchester. The driver who struck Debbie Pritchard, 28, did not stop. A man was later arrested.

Blackmail plot

A teenager admitted conspiring with a manager at Rampton high-security hospital to blackmail the clients of prostitutes. Gemma Nolan, 19, from Nottingham, was remanded in custody at the city's Crown Court.

Tube accident

A woman's head was hit by a Tube train, breaking its window, as she leant over the platform at Oxford Circus to watch mice on the track. The 24-year-old from Raynes Park, southwest London, has a suspected broken neck.

Monster award

The Millennium Commission is giving £1.1 million to a project to display a collection of thousands of dinosaur fossils on the Isle of Wight. The centre will open in Sandown in 1999 and aims to attract 230,000 visitors a year.

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Two drivers killed as blizzards shut roads and schools

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

TWO people died yesterday as blizzards swept much of the country, blocking roads, closing schools and leaving thousands of homes without power.

Heavy snowfalls brought a spate of road accidents and general traffic misery. Motorists were advised to stay at home unless their journey was essential.

Up to 20,000 homes blacked-out across North Wales after power lines were cut in the blizzards were likely to remain without electricity until early today because of the volume of repair work.

Drifts 8ft deep were reported in the worst-hit areas and all trans-Pennine roads were closed, except the M62. Scores of minor accidents were reported as motorists struggled to work. Others abandoned their vehicles. Breakdown and rescue services were inundated with calls.

A lorry driver died in Staf-

fordshire in an accident on the snowbound M6. His body was found crushed under one of the vehicles. Drivers of two other heavy goods vehicles were seriously injured, and 50 sheep tipped onto the carriageway from one of the trucks were killed. Rescue services spent almost an hour releasing the drivers.

An RAF mountain rescue team was put on standby at its base in Stafford to help police and ambulance teams called to stranded vehicles.

The driver of a stolen car was killed in Shropshire when he crashed while being pursued by police at up to 70 mph as snow fell. The thief, still to be identified, died on the A458 Walspool to Shrewsbury road after ignoring an instruction to stop. In worsening weather, he was pursued through Shrewsbury before the car mounted the pavement and hit a lamppost.

Among the areas to suffer

the worst of the early cold snap yesterday were mid and North Wales, the north Midlands and the Pennines. Forecasters said more snow was expected before rain today.

Foul weather caused "a virtual traffic gridlock" in parts of Denbighshire, Flintshire and the Wrexham area. Up to seven inches of snow hit stretches of the main A55 coastal route. A rest centre was set up for about 50 stranded drivers at St Asaph, Denbighshire. Dozens of rural schools were forced to shut.

Electricity board officials drafted in teams of extra engineers but were unable to use helicopters because of poor visibility. "Heavy snow has brought down several lines to ground level. Severe icing is also affecting the system. We are working flat out on repairs but, regrettably, quite a large number of customers will remain off overnight," said a spokeswoman.



Drivers may have struggled to cope with the wintry conditions yesterday but schoolchildren in Birmingham found time to enjoy the snow

In South Wales, more than 8,000 homes were blacked out. A spokesman for South Wales Electricity said: "Most of the problems have been caused by debris being blown into power lines. We are doing repairs as quickly as possible."

The A66 between Penrith, Cumbria, and Scotch Corner,

North Yorkshire, was closed after a series of accidents. An ambulance on its way to one of the worst accidents, in which cars collided with three jackknifed lorries, skidded off the road and had to be righted by paramedics. Elsewhere, glass littered the road after an articulated lorry split its cargo

of bottled vinegar over the carriageway. A woman driver was taken to Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, but was not thought to be seriously injured.

In the Irish Sea, a Scottish fishing boat was towed into Larne harbour after her engine cut out in force eight

gales. The *Silvery Sea*, from Oban, got into difficulties six miles off the Antrim coast and had to be brought in by a tug from Belfast.

Torrential rain swept most of the South of England, making driving conditions hazardous, with some snow falling as far south as parts of

Kent. In Dorset, many minor roads were blocked by fallen trees.

Snow also affected parts of Scotland with the A90 between Dundee and Perth described by the AA as "treacherous".

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Medical hotline to relieve 999 system

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN ALTERNATIVE to the 999 telephone system for medical emergencies is to be introduced in parts of Britain next year to relieve pressure on overburdened operators.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday that the hotline number, which will vary depending on location, will operate alongside the 999 service and will be for people whose crises do not require hospital care. "It gives access to what is a virtual emergency service, wherever that may be," he said.

The free service would guide people to social services, mental health care, dentists and chemists who could solve urgent problems at night and weekends. Trained local advisers would also dispense health advice and tell people if they

should wait until morning before getting professional help.

The move is part of a widespread review, *Developing Emergency Services in the Community*. The aim is to reduce pressure on 999 operators, accident and emergency departments and general practitioners, the three services that people turn to immediately during most emergencies. The proposals include a public education programme encouraging the acquisition of first aid skills as a civic duty.

The speed of treatment at casualty wards is likely to be reduced. Instead of everybody being assessed immediately, as the Patient's Charter guarantees, people will be seen within 15 minutes of arrival. Non-urgent cases can at best expect to be treated within four hours.



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Full horror of Nazi camp on British soil revealed

By COLIN SMITH

EVEN during the last week of the war Britain knew little of the horrors the Nazis had perpetrated on the Channel Island of Alderney, code-named Fortress Adolf by the Wehrmacht. It was here, on a midwinter's day, that a Russian prisoner was tied in a crucifix position at the gates of his camp and had cold water poured over him until he died.

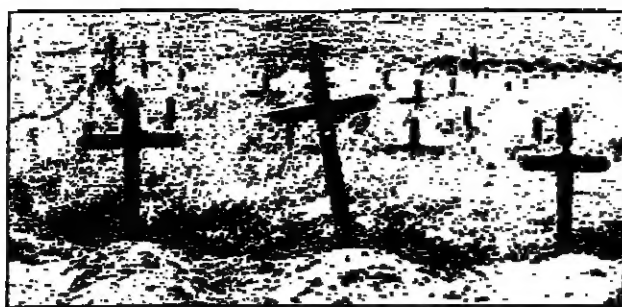
Secret wartime files that will be available for inspection by the public at the Public Record Office at Kew in southeast London today reveal that it was only after the isolated garrison surrendered in May 1945 that German soldiers told their British interrogators of the cruelty that was perpetrated at the only concentration camp established on British soil.

An intelligence report dated March 1942, produced by

M119 — a wartime organisation that gathered intelligence from escaped prisoners and refugees — noted: "There is much less information on this island than either Guernsey and Jersey."

The reason for this intelligence blackout was simple. A steady trickle of escapees from Guernsey and Jersey used anything from fishing boats to canoes to get to England and, after the Normandy invasion, to France. At great personal risk they often brought with them the details of the German order of battle on the Channel Islands, plus sketches and maps of German fortifications.

Only Alderney, evacuated by all but a score of its 1,400 population when the Germans swept through France in the summer of 1940, remained a stubborn blank for providing intelligence. And the Germans were determined to keep it



Graves of Russian slave workers on Alderney, and the concentration camp that was destroyed by fleeing Nazis

that way. When in July 1944 the crew of a stricken RAF Lancaster bomber, trying to get back to England after a raid over France, bailed out and landed near a clump of rocks off the Alderney coast, no attempt was made to pick them up and bring them ashore. Instead, German sailors watched them through binoculars as they drowned.

"Kapitan Massman [the harbour commandant in Al-

derney] used to send us out to get an old box floating in the sea," Kriegsmarine Willie Paschlecke told his British interrogators at the prisoner of war holding centre at Kempton Park, Surrey, a month after the war ended. "But we watched these four or five parachutes come down and were never given the order to go out and rescue them."

German troops normally behaved honourably towards downed enemy flyers and, in any case, air crew were normally prized for their intelligence value. Earlier in the war, two shot-down Spitfire pilots had been held prisoner in a local hotel then shipped to Guernsey and Germany.

But by the summer of 1944, after four years of Nazi occupation, Alderney held too many dark secrets to risk the presence of live British airmen on its soil. A commando raid that in September 1942 plucked seven German sailors off the lighthouse on the Casquets reef six miles west of Alderney yielded little intelligence on events on the island. Part of the reason for this was that the officer in charge of the interrogation may have been distracted from seeking further information when he suddenly realised he had struck gold after one of the

prisoners confessed that his previous posting had been on a seashore rocket range used by scientists for the development of the Germans' V1.

By the time the Lancaster crew was left to drown, most of the slave labourers, at one time as many as 7,000, were either dead or had been sent back to Germany, where many veterans perished during the last weeks of the war. Werner Holme watched emaciated Russian prisoners being loaded on to a freighter called the *Xavier Dosch*. "In its hold these people were crowded together like herrings, without straw, beds or blankets," he told his British interrogators.

Most of the slave labour on the island was Russian or Ukrainian, but there were also French Jews, German political prisoners and Spanish Republicans who had enlisted in the French Army after their defeat

by Franco, only to fall into German hands after the collapse of France in 1940.

The main reason for the delay in the release of the newly available files is that they have been in the hands of German prosecutors with a view to bringing some of Alderney's war criminals to court. But one glance at the names and descriptions given by captured Germans to their interrogators in the summer of 1945 shows how difficult the task of tracing their captors would have been half a century later. A typical description reads: "Spiral — clean-shaven, brown hair, Horn, late 30s, tall and heavily built."

There is a list of the German firms that were involved in employing labour on Alderney. These include Deutsches Eisenwerk and Wolfberger and Gossel. However, most of these companies no longer exist.

Islanders outraged by wives who slept with Germans

By ROBIN YOUNG

NEWLY released papers about the German occupation of the Channel Islands show that people on Jersey and Guernsey were outraged by the extent to which local women cohabited with German soldiers. Intelligence reports supplied by islanders who had escaped, or who were rescued by Allied troops while on their way to prisons in Germany, describe the women as "Jerrybags" or "troop carriers".

"The behaviour of a great number of women had been

quite disgraceful," one informant reported. "There are many illegitimate children on the island born of German fathers. The Westway crèche on Royal Parade is full of the little bastards."

Many of the mothers were said to be married to serving British soldiers and one with three children by her husband was reported to have had another three by German fathers during the occupation. The authorities on both islands had to subsidise the babies' upkeep, and there was great concern because island law did not allow divorce.

One information report suggested: "The local police are determined to turn a blind eye when the husbands return because murder will be done, and public opinion will, in general, approve."

The claims are made in Ministry of Defence papers released yesterday at the Public Record Office in Kew, west London. One report claimed that the birth rate on the islands was little changed, because German soldiers had replaced potential British fathers evacuated from the islands. There was praise though for one unnamed woman who, having contracted venereal disease from a German soldier, was said to have deliberately infected three other German soldiers in revenge before she was deported to France.

It was thought that the conduct of the women might have been even worse had the Germans not been supplied with a brothel, Maison Victor Hugo on Le Dico, was said to be staffed with 36 French prostitutes who received medical

checks twice a week and were run by French management under German control. The women were sent back to France three weeks after D-Day, allegedly because the Germans were frightened they would give away too many secrets.

A party of young Jersey men who escaped the island by canoe after unsuccessfully trying to form a resistance committee, and being discouraged by retired British army

officers, said that even after the D-Day landings in France the women quislings were "especially blind and maintaining their associations with Germans to the bitter end. Certain of them seemed to be making hay more assiduously than ever while the sun still shines for them."

The 1944 M119 report said the number of women of "all classes and families" who had "gone" with Germans was very high, with some informants suggesting that it was as many as seven out of ten, and that 800 or 900 German babies had been born since the occupation began. There were said to have been innumerable abortions, carried out at a standard rate of five guineas for a German father and three guineas for a local man. "Many of the mothers are women married to British serving soldiers," the informants said, adding: "The girls in Woolworth's and Boots probably know no better, and the manager of Boots, at least, has taken action already. His attention was drawn to the girls' behaviour quite early when he saw 'Boots for Bags' scrawled in chalk in the road before his shop. He sacked the lot."

The informants identified a Mrs Baudains as "the arch-female quisling" on Jersey. She was living with a German captain but was also notorious as an informer who frequently earned the standard £100 for information. By the time the reports were made she had already been beaten up and thrown through a plate-glass window in Union Street.

Other collaborators identified by the informants included Maureen Langlois of the

New Star Hotel, St Peter — "a Jerrybag of long standing"; Gloria Love, the mistress of Captain Zapineck, a German entertainment officer who had been killed in France, and after his death of Colonel Helderford, Dulcie Hibbs, of Havre des Pas, who is said to have informed on her father because she was so enamoured; a Miss Cornish, "the Jersey mistress of Gessapo Chief Wolf"; Phyllis Rowden, who bore a Gessapo officer a child; and Miss Maurant, the bank manager's daughter, who was "friendly" with Doctor Pelz, the German agricultural officer.

Later reports suggested that

SECRET
M.119, P. 25

The M119 report which lists Jersey's quislings

the collaborators, once the prospect of Allied victory became more obvious, were "trying wholesale to get with loyal islanders". The same informants supplied lists of male collaborators, who included black marketeers and islanders who had helped the German forces to requisition supplies.

Their lists included Mr Robert, a barber who would only cut German hair; George Romeril, a big cattle dealer turned black marketeer; George Duhamel, an employee of the States (Island parliament), charged with commandeering motor transport for the Germans and "more zealous than his duty demands"; Alfred Thomas, of Le Collillon Hill, Grouville, armed by the Germans as a

quarry guardian; a chemist called Le Poldevin, who served only Germans; Ernest L'Amey, a "pro-German dance band leader"; and Doctor Kirschner, Swiss proprietor of the Hotel Normandy in Dico, St Luke's, "a thoroughly disloyal fifth columnist".

The reliability of these accusations can be questioned since George Le Breuilly, manager for the Country Gentlemen's Association, listed as a collaborator in one report, is later revealed to have been arrested by the German authorities for listening to the BBC and to have refused to collaborate with them, preferring to serve his prison sentence instead.

Similarly the Rev Pere Marie of St Thomas Church, St Helier, is accused by one group of informants of delivering pro-German sermons, while others say he only delivered sermons to Germans, not to them.

Other suspects included the President of the Chamber of Commerce, who had a German wife; a retired officer called Colonel West who attended a German officer's funeral; an electricity company employee said to spy for Germans on his rounds; and a former agent for Hunsley and Palmer biscuits known as Herr von Cliff since he had become petrol controller on the island.

The informants also claimed that 400 to 500 Irish labourers on Jersey formed "a disreputable bloc well stuck into the black market". The Irishmen, the informants reported, had hit upon the idea of cornering supplies of firewood and then selling boiling water at street corners for threepence (just over 1p) a pot.

Prisoners starved, beaten and worked to death

By COLIN SMITH

LIFE was steadily worn out of the slave labourers sent to Alderney by the Nazis. They were subject to the usual concentration camp regimen of back-breaking labour, 12 hours a day, usually seven days a week.

Systematic brutality and starvation rations drove some so crazy with hunger that they dug up animal entrails buried behind the island's slaughterhouse. SS guards baited them by feeding their dogs with German Army rations in front of them.

The most notorious camp was the SYLT camp for political prisoners, including Russian "defectors". Of the 1,600 Russians taken to the island as forced labour, at least half starved or were beaten to death.

A few of the German military personnel and civilian workers appeared to have disapproved deeply of what they saw and, according to their own testimonies, dared to intervene. Martin Kesch, a crane operator, left his cab when he saw a guard beating a Russian prisoner with a pickaxe handle. "I jumped down from the crane, got hold of him and said, 'If you hit a Russian again I will throw you into the water.'"

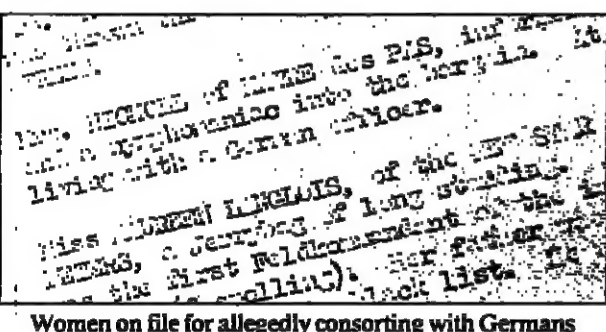
Johann Burchard, a German soldier interrogated by M119, said the prisoners were fed only hot water and cabbage leaves and the guards were able to make a handsome profit by selling food intended for the prisoners. Other Germans said that SS guards would get their bloodhounds to chase the prisoners to the camp perimeter, where they were shot by the sentries for trying to escape.

Grenadier Walter Schuller talked of reusable coffins. "In the summer of 1943, I was working not far away from the Russian cemetery and I witnessed the burial of a Russian. The grave was already dug. They got the coffin to it. There were bolts on the side. These were released and the corpse fell into the grave."

Another prisoner recalled how a French woman from Alsace, who was working on the island, discovered the body of a Russian who had become so weak that he had drowned in a shallow ditch.



Troops supervising the return of islanders to Alderney in January 1946. Most had been evacuated by 1940



Women on file for allegedly consorting with Germans

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Duke of Windsor's unpatriotic gaffes set embassy wires buzzing

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

EMBARRASSED concern among ministers about the wartime conduct of the Duke of Windsor will be disclosed next month when Foreign Office papers are released.

The documents include dispatches from British ambassadors informing the Foreign Office of the Duke's contacts and movements as he and the Duchess travelled from France to Spain and Portugal, then to the Bahamas and the United States.

Besides the official messages, the material to be released at the Public Record Office is expected to include letters from some ambassadors giving details of the Duke's indiscretions and remarks. There are also questions about his friendship with a Swedish multimillionaire, Axel Wenner-Gren, considered by the Americans to be a friend of Hermann Göring. Foreign Office archivists have spent about a year com-

piling papers from the wartime period to the early 1950s. The trawl was prompted by a parliamentary question from Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, on whether the Foreign Office still held papers about the period. It is understood that 22 were found.

Philip Ziegler, who was appointed official historian to complete his biography of Edward VIII, is the only person outside the Government to have studied them. He used some in his book, including the fact that Samuel Hoare, the former Ambassador to Madrid, telegraphed London to urge the Government to contradict German propaganda that he and the Duke were carrying on negotiations for peace.

The Duke had apparently told a member of the American Embassy staff that "the most important thing now to be done was to end the war



The Duke was a friend of a friend of Göring

before thousands more were killed or maimed to save the faces of a few politicians". Mr Ziegler says in his book: "To think this in June 1940 was forgivable; to say it openly to a representative of a foreign, even if friendly power, was to say the least indiscreet."

Windsor's stay in Madrid, Hoare was reporting to London that, while they had stimulated German propaganda, the couple had otherwise done well. "So far from making any defeatist remarks, they went out of their way to show their belief in final victory."

Mr Mackinlay said yesterday: "These papers may reveal the extent of the Duke's dialogues through intermediaries with the Germans. Certainly whilst he was staying in the Iberian peninsula there was some evidence to suggest that he had such contacts after the fall of France and caused embarrassments both for his brother, George VI, and the Government throughout the period of the war."

"I welcome the release of these papers, but there is no reason why the events of this period were not disclosed before. There needs to be transparency about the conduct of all leading public figures during this period."

Police to...

Self-appraisal spare us

Why won't Canada's Government listen to the electorate and stop killing baby seals?

Why won't Canada's Government listen to the electorate and stop killing baby seals?

Recent surveys show Canadian public views

صباحنا من الامم

Police will get new power to curb knife violence

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are to be given comprehensive stop-and-search powers to combat the carrying of knives and possession of drugs on the streets, under plans announced by Michael Howard yesterday.

The Home Secretary also proposed curbs on the advertising of knives under aggressive descriptions such as "The Vindicator" and "Rambo knife".

Mr Howard's surprise announcement that he wanted the police's stop-and-search powers extended came as part of the auction that has developed between the Government and Labour on pre-election law and order initiatives. Two weeks ago Mr Howard said that the police would get additional powers to stop anyone they believed to be a member of a gang known to carry weapons. Under his latest proposal, police would be allowed to stop and search people, without reasonable suspicion, within specified areas if they believed they were carrying knives or drugs. This would be authorised by a superintendent.

At present police can stop and search people without reasonable suspicion in a specified area for 24 hours if they believe there is a danger of serious violence.

Mr Howard said: "Extra stop and search powers for the police will tackle the real evil of people carrying knives in public without good reason."

Last night Frances Lawrence, who presented a mani-

festo for curbing violence after the murder of her husband, the headmaster Philip Lawrence, welcomed Mr Howard's proposals on extending stop-and-search powers in relation to knives. She told *The Times*: "I believe the Home Secretary's announcement is an advance. I am pleased it really seems to me that Mr Howard is trying to move things forward."

Mr Howard outlined his proposals in a letter to Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and suggested they could provide the basis of a Private Member's Bill. Jimmy Wray, Labour MP for Glasgow Provan, came top in a

ballot for backbenchers to be given the chance to pilot legislation through the Commons and has said that he might wish to act against knives. He said last night that although his Bill would deal with the marketing of knives, consultation would be needed on extending police stop-and-search powers in relation to knives. Mr Wray added that at a meeting with David Maclean, a junior Home Office Minister, it had been agreed that his Bill would not include extending powers to search for drugs.

The new offence of marketing a knife in a way that suggests an aggressive use for

it would apply both to its name and associated sales literature. Mr Howard admitted that the measure would not guarantee the prohibition of the sale of undesirable knives. "But it would stop them being called by unacceptable names or being accompanied by unacceptable language."

The new marketing offence would carry a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine.

The planned extension of police powers was condemned by civil liberties groups, which said last night that any town and particularly big cities could be subject to stop-and-search operations.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "This draconian measure, if used insensitively, will do nothing but create high levels of conflict between young people and the law."

John Wadham, director of the pressure group Liberty, accused the Government of "bringing in by the back door" a measure that would mean many young people having no protection from arbitrary searching by the police.

The proposal for more powers to search for knives was welcomed by organisations representing all police ranks. David Phillips, secretary of the crime committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: "It is important that police should have the power to search for weapons in the right circumstances."

Criminals face risk of life ban from driving

CONVICTED criminals face a life driving ban as part of their sentence under a proposal announced by the Government yesterday, Richard Ford writes.

Thieves, burglars and other offenders could be banned regardless of whether their offences involved motor vehicles. The courts would have the power to impose life driving bans on any offender apart from fine defaulters.

Michael Howard believes that criminals will be deterred by the threat of losing their driving licence. The power, introduced as an amendment to the Crime (Sentences) Bill,

would be tested, first with a pilot scheme.

Motoring organisations criticised the plan when it was announced at the Tory party conference. The AA and RAC said that it would only add to the number of uninsured motorists on the roads.

Yesterday Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said: "Disqualifying non-motoring offenders from driving makes little sense. It will hamper offenders' rehabilitation, create further headaches for an overstretched police service and damage the interests of accident victims."

Self-appointed saints can spare us the sanctimony

When Brian Mawhinney and Peter Mandelson offer advice to the media, it is time to be suspicious. It is rather like chefs urging stimulating, good intentions contradicted by self-indulgent practice. Their words are belied by their records. There is more than a whiff of hypocrisy.

The Conservative Party chairman and Labour's election campaign manager yesterday gave speeches to the Westminster Media Forum about how the broadcasters and the press should cover the election. They made good points about the need for the media to avoid trivialisation, insider gossip about that most tedious of topics "spin-doctors", and about the dangers of obsession with opinion polls. The media do often lose perspective and ignore the substance of policy. There is a pack mentality which discourages originality and produces a defensive approach in which



papers slavishly follow each other over the alleged story of the day, even if it is trivial or marginal.

Dr Mawhinney and Mr Mandelson are both highly intelligent, sophisticated politicians. The former has, by all accounts, taken a firm grip of Conservative Central Office and given direction to its election planning, while the latter is rightly regarded as one of the main architects of Labour's revival and authors of Blairism. Labour owes a lot to him. But neither is exactly a saintly figure above the fight, as they implied yesterday. They and their agents are as responsible as the media for the faults they bemoaned.

Dr Mawhinney's "strong" advice that all opinion polls should be ignored is a bit rich since Tory officials are among the most eager to find out the

details of the latest polls. Politicians are fascinated by polls. Dr Mawhinney's warning that "none of us should forget that the divisions which have to be made, are between the parties, not within them" is a bit rich. His own staff have never been reticent about briefing against his Cabinet colleagues, as a distinguished list including Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Gillian Shepherd and Douglas Hogg can readily testify.

Mr Mandelson deplored negative and spurious stories and gave a number of examples. That would be more defensible if Labour, and Mr Mandelson himself, did not demean public debate by repeatedly accusing the Tories of "lying". Such language does not contribute to the "objective" reporting that concentrates on the election's substantive issues" which he seeks.

The real trouble is that Dr Mawhinney and Mr Mandelson would like the media to drop their critical faculties during elections. What they want is stories favourable to their side. What is objective to one is highly partisan to the other. I have no doubt that the parties will be seeking to guide, spin and manage the media during the next six months.

Dr Mawhinney argued that during the campaign the media should "channel" messages from those seeking a mandate to those preparing to confer it. The media's primary function during those four weeks is not to stand between the politician and the public interpreting what we mean or what we say. It is to allow the parties to set out their stalls and explain their policies so that the public can then reach a judgement.

Of course, party platforms and speeches should be reported, arguably more than they were in 1992. But these are not impartial statements, detached analyses by the International Monetary Fund of generally agreed facts. They are invariably highly partisan and slanted. Elections are precisely when the press has a vital role in analysing and interpreting the claims of the parties. In the last campaign, most of the press let the Tories off lightly on their grossly over-optimistic claims about tax cuts.

The press and broadcasters can certainly do better in covering politics. But politicians and "spin-doctors" should spare us sanctimonious and self-interested advice. Physicians heal thyself.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

Today in the Commons, from 8.20pm, backbench debate on the new safety and on the housing industry; from 8.30pm, Scottish questions; Labour-Independent debate on the National Health Service; backbench debate on water meters in Norwich; in the Lords, debate on the "position of the British in Europe"; the impact of second weekly Lottery draw on children; the Welfare of Broker Children Bill, second reading.



Michael Portillo, who says bonuses are a cost-effective way of keeping trained soldiers

Army in line for pay boost

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SOLDIERS might be offered bigger bonuses as an incentive to stay in the Forces. The idea is one of several being considered by the Army Board to resolve the drastic manpower shortage in many infantry and armoured regiments.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has given his full backing to any Army Board initiative to boost Army numbers and has supported the cash bonuses idea. "If you have already trained people, if they are performing at their peak, to encourage them with money to stay on is a very cost-effective way of maintaining them in the Armed Forces," he said in an interview with *The Times*. Recruiting more sol-

diers and keeping them was now the Army Board's priority. He said he was expecting the board shortly to come up with "new ideas".

The latest figures show that the manpower shortage has increased to 5,350, compared with about 4,000 a year ago. The shortage has come at a time when the Government is preparing to commit more than 1,000 troops to Bosnia next year.

Mr Portillo said: "We're certainly doing a lot and it takes its toll on the Armed Forces. They spend less time with their families than I would like to see. On the other hand it is also essential that we fulfil our international responsibilities and the

Armed Forces are pleased to show how useful they are. If we could recruit the numbers that we want, the problem would be eased."

Since October last year, soldiers who have served two years in the infantry, armoured corps and Royal Artillery have been paid a £1,400 bonus to stay on for another two years. They also get £250 for recruiting a friend. Recruiting is up 35 per cent on last year, but Mr Portillo said that he did not expect the problem to be resolved within the next 12 months. "Because you have to take people in and train them, we have a thinish pipe and you can't push huge numbers down it all at once, so on any analysis it will take some years to get this right," he said.

Queen to consider Archer's royal Bill

By ALICE THOMSON

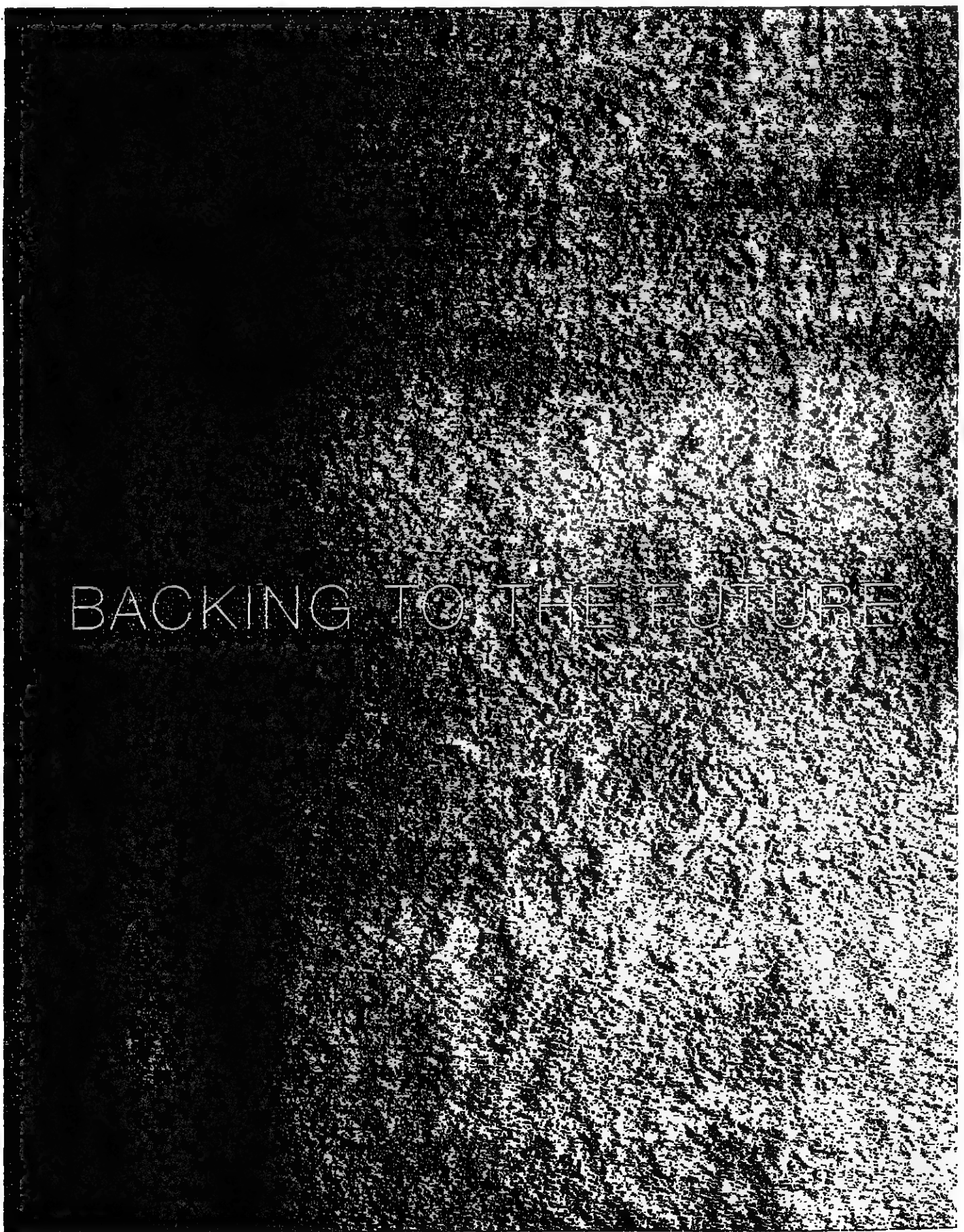
JEFFREY ARCHER has been told he will need the Queen's permission before he can introduce a Bill to give women equal rights to the throne.

Constitutional experts and clerks in the Lords have been examining the peer's request to put forward a backbench measure to end primogeniture in the Royal Family. They have decided that Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare must take the extremely rare step of presenting "an humble address" in the House.

The address, "praying that her majesty may be graciously pleased to allow that her undoubted prerogative will not stand in the way", will be heard in December, then taken to Buckingham Palace.

The Queen is expected to send a message giving her assent to a first reading within two weeks. Although Palace officials believe that a government Bill would be more appropriate, they know that there would be an outcry if the Queen vetoed any proposed legislation. She is presented with "an humble address" only over issues that affect her prerogative and change the law of succession.

If Lord Archer gets his first reading, the issue could be debated in early February. He was in Japan promoting his books yesterday but friends said he was thrilled with the response and convinced that the Queen supported the idea.



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Why won't the Canadian Government listen to the electorate and stop killing baby seals?

Recent surveys* found that 70% of the Canadian public were against the hunting of baby seals. Yet the Canadian Government last spring sponsored the cruel slaughter of 268,921 seals, about 75% of whom were baby seals... just days or weeks old. Next year up to 400,000 seals could be killed. This is the largest marine mammal slaughter in the world today. Help IFAW stop the seal kill. Sign on for seals.

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*Source: Environics, "The Focus Canada Report", March-April 1996.



Wanted: unemployed person to relieve Major of his mantra

Tuesday afternoon marked a significant anniversary for John Major. It was the 300th Prime Minister's Questions which Mr Major himself has taken. 300 sessions of nonsensical questions and nonsensical answers. 300 fatuous 15-minute spats which, laid end to end, would yield 60 hours of continuous babble.

Yesterday Major reached Question 6. The inquiry, like all the others, was whether he would state his engagements for the day. The reply, "I refer my hon. Friend [Rt hon

Friend/Gentleman/Lady] to the answer I gave some moments ago," was the reply he always gives. Only once does he actually state his engagements: a meaningless piece of non-information.

The pointless ritual arises for reasons it is pointless to relate. Along with the pauses and the getting up and sitting down, it consumes some 11 seconds. The initial diary-recitation consumes some 15 seconds. Simple arithmetic suggests that Major has now spent nearly six hours of his life in bland

recitations of his day's diary, or referring his hon. Friends to the reply he gave some moments ago.

Prime Ministers are paid about £30 an hour. The skills needed to intone "I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave some moments ago" can be hired for less. It is this column's modest suggestion — tendered as a small memento to the occasion — that if the British Constitution absolutely requires somebody to recite these words twice a week, then an unemployed person might be taken



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



off the streets and asked to stand in a small sound-proofed cubicle in the Palace of Westminster, out of earshot of serious politics, and intone the requisite mantra at the requisite hour.

Yesterday, John Major did the honours. It was neither his nor Tony Blair's finest hour. For what felt like the 300th time, a Tory back-

bencher (Ann Winterton) brought happy tidings of a drop of unemployment in her constituency (Congleton) and asked, for the 300th time, whether this would not be impeded by "the minimum wage and the social chapter" (sic). For the 300th time, Major found himself "delighted" with the good news, and in absolute agree-

ment with his hon. friend about Labour's threat.

Mr Major makes an unconvincing poodle-master and Mrs Winterton an unconvincing poodle. For the 300th time, this sketch asks: Why don't they pack it in?

Then Tony Blair got up. His question about mixed wards in hospitals, on which he became puzzlingly insistent (returning to it three times) is the sort of thing which may sound logical when set out at a policy strategy meeting in a high-

powered public relations consultancy.

"You see, Tony, NHS is the message: market research shows we're ahead on health: health is on-message: economics is off-message. Look at these charts... Peter, show him the charts... We hit Major three times on health, then, in the final soundbite, we link through from unreliability on health to unreliability on everything else."

"But there isn't anything to say on health."

Then we'll find some-

thing. Anji, dig up something on health... but which sounded odd in the Chamber. Blair sometimes gives the impression of having got a "Be a Leader of the Opposition" kit for Christmas, painstakingly cutting along the dotted lines, working out which tabs have to be folded back and glued, and where the wheels go.

For his part, Major often speaks as though receiving instructions from an eavesdropper, or perhaps the spirit world. A bizarre duo. 300 PMQs down, how many to go?

Backbenchers unite to force currency debate into the open

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Government is today facing an embarrassing defeat over its attempt to sideline a crucial debate on steps towards a European single currency.

It is to be confronted by an impressive show of backbench power as MPs, spurred on by a Labour leadership anxious to highlight divisions in the Tory ranks, protest at its plans to hold a discussion on preparations for economic and monetary union in a small committee room rather than on the floor of the House.

By last night, approaching 200 MPs had signed a Commons motion objecting to the procedure suggested by Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons. Today many of them intend to crowd into Committee Room 10 to make their feelings known.

Labour whips were encouraging their MPs sign the motion believing that if they can get the figure up to 300 the Government will have to give way. But Mike O'Brien, Labour's Treasury spokesman in the committee, is also planning to propose in the meeting today that the debates should be taken on the floor of the Commons, and there is a real chance that the Government would lose. Although it would not be bound by the defeat, the pressure on it to

change its mind would be intense.

Euro-sceptics and Labour MPs are saying that the Government wants the issue dealt with away from the public glare to avoid the pro-European Kenneth Clarke having to face questions on the single currency.

The debate relates to three EU documents on the euro, the proposals for nations which stay outside the single currency and the "stability pact", under which countries that run up excessive deficits can be fined.

Mr Newton has ruled that that the discussions should take place in a committee which is better suited to deal with the details of the proposals. In a memo to MPs, Mr Clarke says he is "concerned that Parliament has the opportunity to comment on these proposals" although he does not specify his preferred forum. Mr Newton had been urged by the Commons European Legislation Committee, which scrutinises all laws from Brussels, to allow a debate in the Commons chamber because of EMU's "legal and political importance". Mr Clarke in his memo is careful to stick to the Government's wait-and-see policy.

He repeatedly makes the point that, whether or not

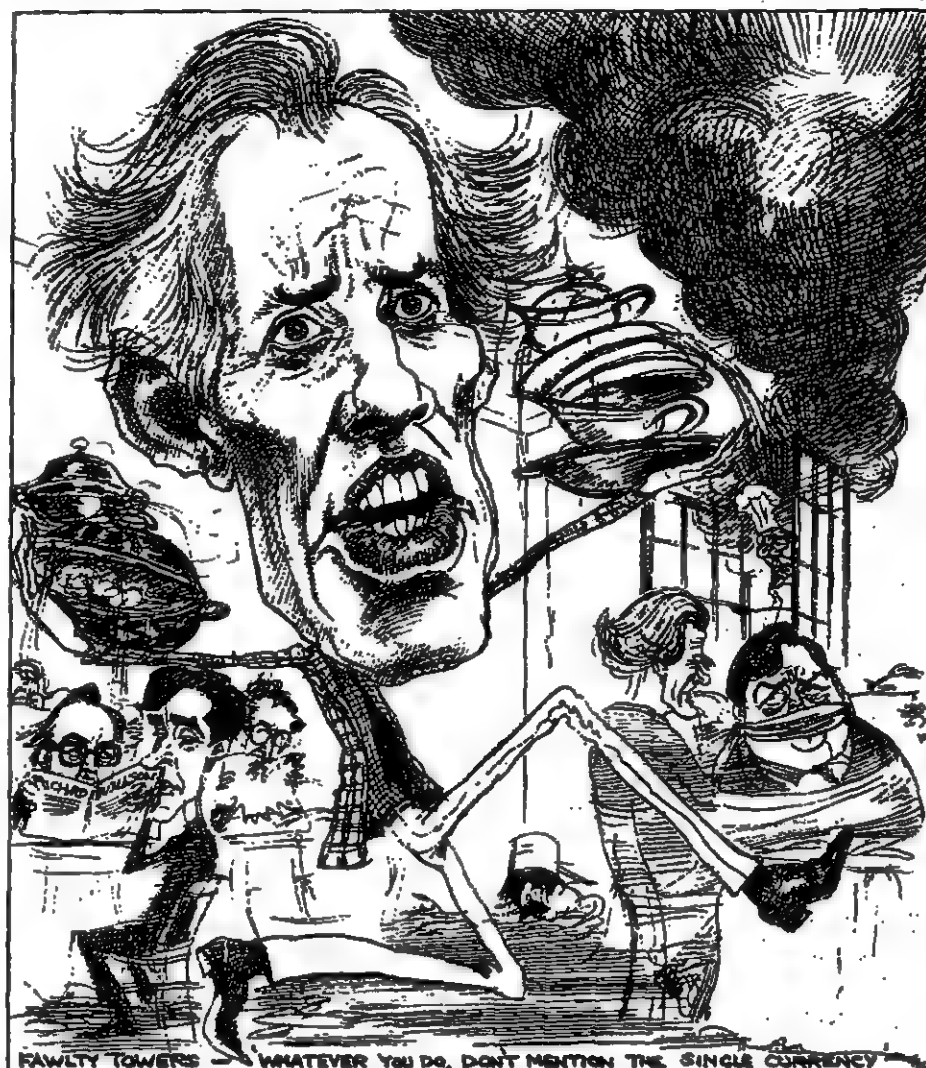
Britain eventually converts to the euro, the low inflation targets and sound public finances advocated by the EU are "sound in their own right".

The Government came under fierce attack last night. The leading Euro-sceptic Bill Cash said: "The intention when setting up the standing committees was that important matters should be left on the floor of the House. What is being done here is in direct contravention of that aim."

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, seized on the row in a speech last night. He said: "Conservative ministers trying to deny a debate on Europe in Parliament — and more concerned about the narrow views on the extreme Conservative Right than the great concerns under discussion — are not serving the national interest well."

Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "We welcome a debate on the single currency, which stands in stark contrast to the Tories, who are running away from a debate which would expose the rift between the Chancellor and his own backbenchers."

But the Pro-European Tory Hugh Dykes also backed a wider debate. "The essence of the ministerial posture is to say 'don't let's discuss it, it's



too awkward'. It's the most important subject facing the nation... It's essential to get that national debate launched well ahead of any decisions that have to be made for 1999 and beyond."

The former Tory minister David Howell, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said: "We're a

long way forward from where we were ten or 15 or 20 years ago, but there comes every now and again a major issue when it needs to be brought right to the centre of a visible political debate, and that's on the floor of the House."

Negotiations on the stability pact have caused Germany to clash with nations such as

Britain and Spain over its insistence on cast-iron rules to define when members of EMU would be allowed to run up a deficit. As a result of the deadlock, Brussels officials are predicting EU leaders will be able to agree only a broad political statement on the pact at the Dublin summit next month.

Labour promises to overhaul demoralised CPS

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

LABOUR promised yesterday that in government it would carry out "wholesale reform" of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, made the pledge after a survey of lawyers who work for the service revealed widespread disenchantment and low morale. Mr Straw said the findings highlighted the "need for fundamental reform of the CPS" to make it more effective in securing convictions.

The poll had fulfilled predictions from the Royal Commission in 1981, on Criminal Procedure that a single, centralised prosecution service would be borne down by the "dead hand of bureaucracy". He called for measures to decentralise the service, make prosecutors more "sensitive to local concerns" and improve co-operation with police.

The poll, published yesterday by MORI, found lawyers

overwhelmingly supported the idea of an independent prosecution service but were deeply demoralised about its current management culture. More than two thirds of lawyers polled rated the CPS below average or one of the worst places to work, more than half would leave their jobs given the chance.

The ratings were described by MORI as the worst among 400 public and private sector organisations in more than 20 years. The poll was commissioned by the First Division, the union representing 75 per cent of the 2,300 lawyers in the CPS, with a response rate of nearly 60 per cent.

Kevin Goodwin, the union's CPS section convenor, said that crown prosecutors were "degraded, demotivated, demeaned and demoralised". He added: "This survey is a warning shot. We want a root and branch overhaul of management ethos and culture."

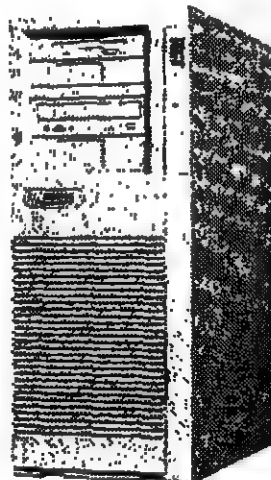
Brown warns utilities

GORDON BROWN delivered a tough warning to privatised utilities last night telling them not to try to wriggle out of paying a windfall tax on their excess profits (Jill Sherman writes).

In a speech to the London International Futures and Options Exchange, the Shadow Chancellor said that several

companies were already trying to get out of paying the levy through avoidance schemes. "Let me make clear there is no measure taken by the utilities, whether it be the use of special dividends, share buy backs, tax havens, or the sale of capital allowances, that will reduce or eliminate the windfall levy."

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British mission to wait for checks by RAF spy plane

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE deployment of British troops to Zaire is to be delayed to allow further reconnaissance of the region by an RAF Canberra aircraft.

The plan, equipped with high-resolution cameras, will take off this morning for Zaire from RAF Marham in Norfolk. Speaking in Moscow during a two-day visit, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said that he had been briefed on the findings of a British Army reconnaissance team, which has just returned from Central Africa.

The group was present when some 500,000 Hutus returned to Rwanda over the past few days from Goma in Zaire, although Mr Portillo said that the fate of a huge refugee population near Bukavu was less clear. The Defence Secretary said he intended to launch a campaign to get the message across to Hutus still in Zaire that those who had crossed the border had been allowed home and had not been harmed.

Last night, the 43-man British reconnaissance party, led by Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, advised ministers that more time was needed before troops were sent to the region. One senior Ministry of Defence source, briefed by the team, said it would be wrong to rush in before we know

more about the situation on the ground.

However, Britain has accepted in principle the responsibility for handling refugees in the Bukavu area at the southern end of Lake Kivu, where it is believed that hundreds of thousands of them are still located. In Goma, north of Lake Kivu, which is to be the American area of operation, all the refugees have either returned or are returning to Rwanda.

The reconnaissance party found it would be possible to send C130 Hercules planes to the airfield at Bukavu, and ministers have been advised that a British sector could be set up in the area. The main challenge, the group said, would be to find out whether the alliance of five rebel forces was holding the refugees hostage.

A source close to the reconnaissance party said a local figure called Commander Caesar had said that it would be "mad" to try to take a British platoon into the refugee camp in the Bukavu area. However, Brigadier Thomson is understood to feel confident that well-armed British troops could mount patrols in the area and help the refugees without having to take on the rebel militia.

One source said: "It would

Exhausted Hutus find little rest

Gisenyi, Rwanda: Huge bottlenecks of exhausted Hutu returnees built up inside Rwanda yesterday.

While the human tide of refugees entering Rwanda from Goma, Zaire, slowed to a trickle, for many Hutus the suffering continued in the homeland they fled in 1994 after their kinsmen committed genocide against minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Tens of thousands of returning refugees demanding food blocked the streets of Nkamira, 13 miles from the border. Two soldiers stood on guard outside a United Nations transit centre at Nkamira, stopping refugees from entering to have a rest, sleep and receive food as planned by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Rwandan authorities insist that the refugees, exhausted after days of marching and sleeping rough, must keep trudging onwards to their home villages.

A spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross accused Rwandan soldiers of commandeering four of its trucks to ferry refugees out of the cramped border area. (Reuters)



A Rwandan Hutu woman plays with her child on her return home to Rubavu, 12 miles east of Gisenyi

US will not send combat troops

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA has overturned last week's plan to commit combat ground troops to Zaire, and will now send fewer than 100 support staff, the Pentagon said yesterday.

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said that the peaceful return of more than 500,000 refugees to Rwanda over the past few days was "a very positive development" which meant that US combat troops were no longer needed.

The statement marks a sharp scaling-down of US plans for involvement in Zaire. Last Friday, President Clinton announced that America would send 5,000 troops to Zaire and neighbouring countries, including 1,000 combat troops. The President's move, against the advice of the National Security Council, coincided with the White House's formal recognition that US troops would have to prolong their stay in Bosnia.

As Rwandan refugees began returning home from Zaire at the weekend, Republicans in Congress criticised Mr Clinton for his haste in offering US troops.

Mr Perry said in Washington that the US still planned to take part in the military operation to support the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Rwanda. "This force will require considerably fewer troops than originally envisioned and will operate chiefly in Rwanda," he said.

"Our current thinking is that the US contribution to this effort will be less than 1,000 troops. And these will be support logistics troops rather than combat troops."

According to the Pentagon, US Air Force teams have already moved into Kigali, the Rwandan capital. Moreover, in Kenya, and Entebbe, Uganda, to help transport aid and support staff into Rwanda. The first C17 cargo plane left Germany yesterday, loaded with equipment to help Kigali to set up an air traffic control system.

Mr Perry added that while the situation in Central Africa remained fluid, Washington was prepared to send troops to help other military units in Zaire if necessary.

Mr Clinton, who arrived in Sydney yesterday on a three-week tour of Australia and Asia, is urgently seeking a replacement for Mr Perry, who wants to leave the Cabinet for the private sector.

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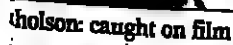
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**FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON**

Harold Nicholson, 46, the highest-ranking US agent to be charged with spying for a foreign power, had been taken into custody as he boarded a plane to meet his Russian controllers in Switzerland last weekend. He

Although there is no apparent link between Ames, the most damaging "mole" to work at the CIA, and Mr Nicholson, the latest case nevertheless sent shockwaves through the Virginia headquarters at Langley where John Deutch, the director, had claimed personal pride in resurrecting the agency from its darkest hour. Mr Deutch, who hopes to succeed William Perry as Defence Secretary

Although both Mr Deutch and Louis Freeh, the FBI director, portrayed Mr Nicholson's arrest as proof that America's espionage community had become more alert to the question of moles, the CIA director

The final piece of evidence against Mr Nicholson came last week when a CIA surveillance team recorded him on film kneeling beneath his desk and photographing secret documents with a high-definition briefcase camera requisitioned from the field equipment department. But an investigation of the suspect had been under way for nearly a year. Agents wove a case against him based on answers to lie-detector tests, a pattern of overseas travel unrelated to his work and bank deposits that could

In recent weeks, investigators had searched his home, car and mailboxes that they believe he used to send postcards with cryptic messages. One card of the US Capitol dated August 1 was addressed "Hello Old Friend" and suggested a "ski holiday" on November 23 and 24. Signed by Nevil Strachey, the card is thought to have been a signal for a meeting with the Russians on the two dates. It bore the postscript: "The snow should be fine by then."

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

An ITV documentary to be shown next month has brought together Andrew

Andrawes was sentenced to 20 years in a Somali prison but was released because of ill-health after a year and returned home to Beirut. She then moved around the world and in 1992 was allowed to settle in Norway. By that time



but the German authorities were insistent that she had not been brought to book properly. The sentencing seems to have satisfied a longing for justice in Germany. The Mogadishu hijack, with all its associated events, such as the suicide of three jailed German

terrorists including Andreas Baader, and the killing of the head of German industry, Hanns-Martin Schleyer, left a deep scar which has never fully healed.

□ **Iran protest:** Security was stepped up at the German Embassy in Tehran yesterday.

as protesters again demonstrated against what they called a "den of spies". Relations have been soured by the trial in Berlin of men accused of murdering three Kurdish opposition leaders, allegedly acting under orders from Iran's secret service.

FROM JAMES BONE

US diplomats expressed disappointment and said it was essential to find a new UN chief able to restore the confidence of the US Congress in the world organisation. The Clinton Administration owes \$1.4 billion (more than £840 million) in UN dues and can only pay the arrears if the

Brussels: The Belgian parliament yesterday opened an inquiry into pacophile allegations against Elio Di Rupo, the Deputy Prime Minister (Charles Bremier writes). Similar steps were taken by two regional assemblies in the case of Jean-Pierre Grafé, a minister in Wallonia.

Promotion for Bucharest mayor

Bucharest: Victor Ciorbea, the man who beat former, the former tennis star, Ilie Nastase, in elections for Mayor of Bucharest has been appointed Romania's Prime Minister. Mr Ciorbea, 42, a former trade unionist, gained a reputation for efficiency and incorruptibility in his administration of the capital. (AP)

Chiluba on way to Zambia win

Lusaka: President Chiluba and his ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy appear to be on their way to a landslide victory in Zambia's general elections (Jan Raath writes). A surprisingly high turnout promises a parliament with only token opposition.

Greece will miss EMU first round

Athens: Greece will not be in the first batch of states to join economic and monetary union (EMU) in 1999 and will struggle to make the second round. Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, said. He was speaking after a Cabinet meeting on the 1997 budget. (AP)

Broken home

Sarajevo: A domestic dispute in the Bosnian town of Bijeljina reached an explosive climax when a Serb man fired a bazooka at his wife. He missed and severely damaged their home. (AP)

**FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM**

NATAN SHARANSKY, the best-known former Soviet Jewish refusenik, will return early next week to Russia to a red-carpet welcome. His visit, ten years after he was freed after serving nine years of a 13-year sentence on trumped-up charges of

In his new role as Israeli Minister of Trade and Industry, and leader of a successful party for former Soviet immigrants in the Jewish state, he will lead more than 80 Israelis who are set on improving trade and diplomatic relations with Moscow.

Mr Sharansky, 48, will be accompanied on the emotional week-long trip to Moscow and St Petersburg by his mother and his wife, Avital, whose tireless campaign for his freedom turned him into an international symbol of the struggle against totalitarianism in the 1980s.

Roman Polonsky, one of 700,000 new immigrants from the former Soviet Union and chief spokesman for the ministry, said Mr Sharansky had requested permission to visit Lefortovo prison in Moscow, where he spent a year and a half in solitary

confinement before his trial. "The Russian authorities have not yet informed us whether they will allow that visit," he said.

Mr Sharansky has vowed to use his influence to improve the status of former Soviet immigrants to Israel and persuade another million to emigrate and transform the character and economy of Israel.

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Tenseness: 1. Tautness, stretched tight;
2. Subject to tension.

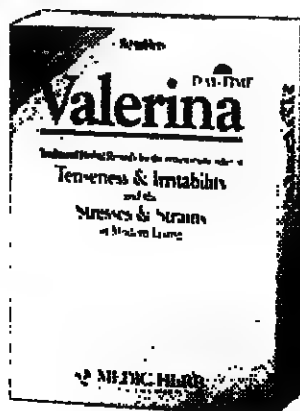
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Hobart court told how killer laughed as 35 victims died

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE gunman accused of the world's worst civilian shooting grinned and laughed as he slaughtered 35 people in Tasmania, a Hobart court was told yesterday.

The court also heard that he deliberately sought out a six-year-old girl hiding behind a tree who he then shot at point-blank range in the back of the neck.

Martin Bryant, who has pleaded guilty to 72 charges arising from last April's massacre at the former penal colony of Port Arthur, approached little Alannah Milak after murdering her mother, Nanette, and her three-year-old sister, Madeline. Then he calmly pushed the muzzle of the gun into her neck and pulled the trigger, Damian Bugg, the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court.

Tasmania's Supreme Court was also told how an unnamed survivor watched Bryant, 29, open fire on customers in the Broad Arrow cafe.

"He appeared to be laughing in an aggressive way rather than an amused way," Mr Bugg said. "He said Bryant walked from table to table shooting people in the head."

Earlier Bryant, whose long blond hair had been cut short for the court appearance, covered his face as the Crown prosecutor asked that he be

given a life sentence with no possibility of release. At times he glanced up at the public gallery where many of the victims' families sat.

Mr Bugg said that Bryant began building up his supply of ammunition and weapons over several months before the massacre, even hiding his semi-automatic guns in a piano in his house.

"Clearly at that particular time he intended to embark upon his murderous and violent conduct at Port Arthur," Mr Bugg said. The massacre had an "air of pre-planning".

After Bryant shot his first victims, an elderly couple who ran the small Seascope guest house just outside the Port Arthur site, he made his way to the Broad Arrow cafe.



An artist's impression of Martin Bryant

Witnesses said that at first they thought it was a historical re-enactment. Then Bryant opened fire with his semi-automatic weapon, laughing at his victims as they tried to dive for cover under tables.

Fifteen seconds later 12 people were dead. A minute later a further eight were killed.

The court was also shown a one-minute video shot by an American tourist who was at the scene of the tragedy shortly after Bryant had left the cafe. Filmed from 100 yards away, Bryant was seen shooting at the camera at times and following his victims around with his gun pointed in their direction. While watching the video from the dock, Bryant grinned but at times looked uneasy.

Mr Bugg said Bryant gave no indication of his intentions when he had dinner with his mother and girlfriend in Hobart the previous evening.

The following morning he stopped and spoke to several people at a shop and petrol station when he drove from Hobart to Port Arthur. Two of the witnesses who spoke to him asked him if he was going surfing.

"No. I am going to the island of the dead to get rid of some Wasps," he reportedly said.

The judge is expected to sentence Bryant tomorrow.



Survivor Walter Milak with his wife Nanette, their three-year-old daughter, Madeline, and six-year-old Alannah, all Bryant's victims. Alannah was killed by a shot in the head

Blow to Hindu as court permits beauty pageant

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Miss World beauty pageant was given the go-ahead by an Indian court yesterday, on condition that there is no "indecent exposure of the bodies of participants amounting to obscenity and nudity".

It was a defeat for Hindu nationalists, who are threatening to use violence to halt the event, due to be televised globally on Saturday.

The increasingly militant Hindutva (Hinduness) movement is gaining strength as a backlash against liberal trends and Western influences that are bringing rapid changes to conservative rural India, where nearly 80 per cent of the population live. The movement gained notoriety last month after a mob destroyed works by Mahatma Gandhi, India's most celebrated living artist, who is a Muslim.

The violent trend is fuelled by the state government of Maharashtra, India's richest region, where Hindu nationalists are in power. Mr Husain faces possible legal action by the state for depicting several Hindu goddesses in the nude, and police have charged him with inciting hatred. A 20-year-old drawing of Saraswati, goddess of knowledge and the arts, without clothes has become the focus of Hindu outrage. Mr Husain, 81, called it "just a scribble".

Throughout his career he has used Hindu iconography to make his work accessible to wide audiences. Some of his best-known paintings depict scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics. He has produced many nudes of popular deities, including Ganesh, Hanuman and Durga. Effigies of artists have been burnt in dozens of his works destroyed. Bajrang Dal, an umbrella organisation for militant Hindu groups, is leading an attack on Mr Husain's work. "No Muslim has the right to portray our deities any way wishes," said Jaibhan Singh Patwa, its leader.

He claims Mr Husain is part of an international conspiracy to spread Western culture to India and is a "manipulating" that all "objective" paintings should be submerged in the River Ganges, holy to Hindus.

"Let the scholars and historians and the experts together and decide whether this is objectionable or not," Mr Husain said. "If... such a panel finds my paintings objectionable, I'll be the first to light a bonfire and burn everything."

Indian artists mounted a widespread demonstration last month after an exhibition of Mr Husain's paintings in Ahmedabad, valued at more than £250,000, was destroyed by a Hindu mob carrying tiki-tok, the symbol of the god Shiva. A procession of artists in Bangalore shouted slogans against attempts by Hindu fundamentalists to censor art and there were protest marches in Delhi and Calcutta.

Israeli grooms hit credit hitch

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESS IN JERUSALEM

AN ISRAELI rabbi has issued a decree warning grooms who buy wedding rings with a credit card that their marriages might be invalid.

The ruling by Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, a leading authority in the Sephardic community of Middle Eastern Jews, came after a man in northern Israel was nearly forced to remarry his bride because he bought her ring on credit. According to Jewish law, a groom must own the

wedding ring at the time of his marriage. But when the ring is purchased with a credit card, it remains the property of the seller until the debt is cleared.

In the case of the unidentified couple in northern Israel, they discovered after their wedding that a banking error had delayed payment for their ring. The couple went to Rabbi Eliyahu for a ruling on the matter and he decreed that since the delay in paying the debt was the bank's fault, their marriage remained valid.

But he went on to issue a ruling warning grooms not to

buy wedding rings with credit cards unless they are certain that the payment will be completed before their marriage ceremony. "You cannot legally wed a woman with a ring that does not legally belong to you," he wrote.

□ Dubai: The United Arab Emirates plans to ban its men from marrying non-Arab women to shield society from the "negative influences of mixed marriages", an official said yesterday. Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have in recent years imposed similar restrictions. (Reuters)

Earthquakes rock China and India

Peking: A powerful earthquake, measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale, rocked a sparsely populated mountainous area in northwest China yesterday, but there were no reports of casualties.

The quake struck the Karakoram mountain area in Xinjiang province, 2,000 miles west of Peking, and was felt in nearby towns and counties, the official Xinhua news agency said. Walls of houses were cracked.

In India yesterday, a mod-

erate earthquake, the third in 48 hours in the west and north, shook Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. Police and state authorities said there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

Bhutto power appeal rejected

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the deposed Prime Minister of Pakistan, suffered a setback yesterday in her legal battle to restore her Government to power. The Supreme Court rejected her petition, challenging her dismissal by President Leghari, as containing irrelevant, objectionable and scandalous material.

Yesterday, police arrested her political secretary, Nadeem Khan, as the caretaker Government launched a crack-

down on senior officials of the ousted Prime Minister. Miss Khan, one of Miss Bhutto's closest aides, was arrested at Islamabad airport after she arrived from Karachi accompanied by Miss Bhutto. Police said she had been detained under the maintenance of public order law.

An angry Miss Bhutto accused the caretaker Government of using fascist methods to crush her supporters.

Seven top officials of her Government, including Ahmed Sadiq, former principal secretary, Azhar Sohail, media

adviser, and Masood Sharif, intelligence chief, were also arrested this week. Sources in the new Government said they were involved in serious charges of corruption and abuse of power. Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is already under detention.

The latest move against Miss Bhutto's allies came after the promulgation of a new law by President Leghari. It provides for the disqualification from public office of politicians involved in corruption and abuse of power. They also face a seven-year jail term.



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The winter's great wrap-up



Long and lean or short and slim — now is the time to concentrate on the coat, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

Just when you thought you knew how to get dressed in the morning, along comes a designer telling you it is all wrong. This year designers are as affronted by the jacket as Lady Bracknell was by the notorious handbag.

"A jacket? A jacket?" one can hear them screaming across the cutting tables. "Who on earth is going to wear a jacket?" Well, quite a few of us are, given half a chance. After all, we have grown up with the idea — fed to us by the fashion cognoscenti — that all we needed was one good jacket to see us stylishly through the winter.

Now designers have taken a collective decision to dispense with the jacket and instead to treat the coat as an integral part of an outfit, rather than an outer layer to be discarded on coming indoors.

The result has been a confusing choice of coat styles, each creating a particular silhouette but without necessarily accommodating the rest of your wardrobe.

One solution is to buy a coat that makes a statement for itself, and then fit everything else around it. "I've invested in a black shearing Gucci coat, and I'm so in love with it, I'm wearing it no matter what the temperature or what's appropriate," says Kate Reardon, fashion director of *Tailor*.

But then, she admits, she never did like jackets. "I used to try and wear them, rather unsuccessfully, and I'm deeply relieved that they're no longer the vital piece in the wardrobe."

From the bewildering variety of shapes and forms shown on the catwalks and now available in the high street, four main silhouettes emerge: long and lean; belted 1970s-style coats, often in suede or leather; knee-length fitted "suit coats"; and knee-length furs.

Of these, the "suit coat" is the safest alternative to the jacket. The narrower it is, the more like a jacket it will look as you stride into a business meeting. Look for lightweight gabardines or fine wools, depending on how warm you want it to be. A coat and skirt in stone, teamed with a fawn shirt or sweater, can also look very suave.

But the short, slim coat can be restrictive. It looks fabulous with slim-leg trousers and excellent with knee-length skirts and dresses. But team it with a below-the-knee skirt of any description and the whole look falls apart.

Those who have bought

maxi-coats, on the other hand, report a practical problem with stairs. Descending, the hem trails down the steps, picking up a layer of dirt. Ascending, especially with heavy bags, can simply be very awkward.

If you are committed to minimalism, however, then the long, lean shape is the best bet. You can team it with anything — so long as there is only one layer. Bear in mind that if the coat has a deep V-neck, you will have to coordinate what goes underneath. Either that, or resort to one of this season's long woolly scarves as a strategic cover-up.

The warmest option, for those who have to brave the already wintry weather, is probably a really good fake fur coat. Look for wide lapels or large shawl collars, loud ani-



mal prints such as those at Dolce & Gabbana or, for a dash of Gucci style, put a dark fake fur against white.

Belted suetries and leathers can be worn with most things — but will not withstand a heavy downpour. Go for a slim leather design and you will evoke the cool of 1930s Berlin. But beware — opt for something in shade with a shaggy alghan trim and the effect may be more 1970s sitcom.

Which brings us to colour: browns, fawns, greys and khakis are the replacements for black. But if you find these dull and you're confident that you can colour-coordinate, then there are also strong shades of blue and pink around.

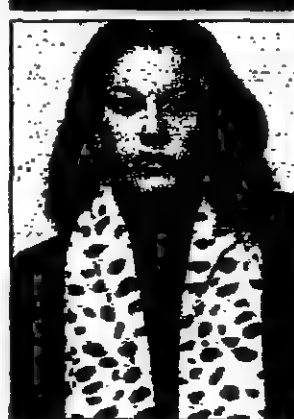
Finally there is the limousine lifestyle option: pure white. Great on the catwalk, possibly not so good on the sidewalk.

Above left: Suede alghan, £780 by Joseph, Sloane Street, London SW1. Denim mini, £39.99 by Morgan, Barker's Arcade, London W8. Silk shirt, £90 by Katharine Hammett, Harrods Way-in, London SW1. Tights, £3.99 at Fenwicks, New Bond Street, London W1. Suede boots, £49.99 by Shelley's, Regent Street, London W1.

Above centre: Turquoise single breasted princess coat, £93.50 by La Redoute mail order, tel 0600-777 777. Check silk shirt, £25 by Whistles, St. Christopher's Place, London W1. Mulberry velvet trousers, £69 at Fenwicks, New Bond Street.

Above right: Greatcoat, £179 at Fenwicks. Brown and beige check trousers, £70 by French Connection, Long Acre, London WC2. Olive poloneck, £55 by Morgan. Mock croc chain belt, £65 at Fenwicks. Photographer: Steve Poole. Styled by Deborah Brett; hair and make-up by Helen Bannan; model, Kat at Boss Models.

MUST HAVE



Fake fur hat from Kangol (£54). Minimalist glamour is the key to this season's dressing. A big floppy hat will give you the Bianca Jagger look updated for '96.

MUSTN'T HAVE: Anything in fake dafostan. Dolce & Gabbana may be going wild over the launch of *101 Dalmatians*, but walk down the street in some of this winter's fake accessories, and you're liable to be attacked.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1996

FEATURES 19

Nobody has a good time in New York any more

A bra strap-snapping hero has emerged to save a city that has become cautious, sober, air-conditioned and user-friendly. Quentin Letts reports

Manhattan's harried, haggard, fortysomethings have a revolutionary new role model. It is not a Colgate-glittering yuppie with cellular telephone and freshly ironed Brooks Brothers shirt. Nor, for once, is it some tanned geek on an exercise bike at the local gym, flexing her pecs.

The new role model is not even young. He is a hoary, bra strap-snapping, 60-year-old goat of a man who, for 4½ days a week, roils in a New York newspaper office until, on Friday afternoons, he goes off for what the great Jilly Cooper would call a "really good bonk". His partner in this sport is a pneumatic young broad whom he met at a cocktail party. Hours later our champion returns to the office, face pink as a slapped bottom, full of cheer and addressing everyone as "captain".

The man, sadly anonymous, appears in an explosive essay in this week's *New Yorker* magazine. Its author, James Atlas, has asked the question nobody in this city has dared to ask for too long: "When was the last time you did something just for the hell of it?" The article is titled *The Fall of Fun* and in it Mr Atlas, 47, describes the cautious, sober, detoxed, taste-free, unloaded, low-fat, air-conditioned, user-friendly, space-respecting hall of reason that New York life has become.

In such a world, Mr Atlas's essay is an act of courage. He reports the self-restraints that the Manhattan elite now imposes, a moral equivalent of car seat-belts. Mr Atlas has lifted a mirror to the face of America's Baby Boomers and the reflection it carries is one of a generation that is newly puritanical, "unhedonistic". At a spring literary party in Manhattan's leafy Gramercy Park, he found himself eyeing up a "pillow-lipped publicist in a short leather skirt". By his third glass of champagne he was fingering a desire to stay longer and chat up the girl.



A clubber has a good time at the Ritz, but good times are dying out fast in a city that is now detoxed and taste-free

The alternative was to do the expected thing and leave at 8.10pm to head home, see the children before they went to bed and have a dull supper with his dear wife. Atlas, Mr Atlas did the expected thing, but it was with a heavy heart and the realisation that his generation has lost the plot.

The symbolic representation of Nineties New York, he notes, should be "a series of red circles, each with a line through it: No Smoking, No

Drinking, No Sex, No Fun". He laments: "It isn't this way in Europe, where business is a form of socialising, not the other way round." He repeats the regretful observation that those of us who ARE European have sometimes made but which Americans find irresponsible, that the art of a languid lunch in New York is dead.

"Where are the disastrous miscalculations, the squandered opportunities, the wrong turns that made life so picturesque and hairy?" he asks. "Nobody quits a job any more after hurling an inkwell at the boss." Melik Kaylan, 39, a writer and social observer in

Manhattan, reads the Atlas article like a man consuming an iced pilsner in Alexandria. New York, Kaylan agrees, has become a place where one can no longer afford to err. "In the old days, it was the little old lady next door with the twitching curtain who disapproved of you. Now it is your friends," he says.

Mr Atlas's complaint refers specifically to the city's intellectuals, the authors, poets and creative people for whom gluttony, drunkenness and sloth were once *de rigueur*. In Nineties New York those vices are absent, along with any behaviour that is lubricious or somehow spotty (although greed is OK). "People who have too good a time are seen as a liability by their peers," says Mr Kaylan.

Political correctness may seem too easy a target, but one must not underestimate the debilitating effect of a creed which has banished vivid colours from the city's social canvas. No middle class New Yorker speaks in blue these days. Where are the busters and the Cuban heels, the

salacious winks, salty jokes and raspberry laughs?

America has become a place where a nonagenarian like Senator Strom Thurmond can be accused of impropriety for goosing a pretty woman in a lift. Impropriety? It should be hailed as a miracle that old Strom still has some gas in his tank.

Hack writers no longer earn their beer money by selling review copies of novels at secondhand book shops. These days they have six figure Hollywood deals. Few people even seem to have time to read books any more, so frantic are they in their effort to lead lives that have sprung

from the pages of the Sunday colour supplement. Even on their holidays (two weeks a year, maximum) these ghostly robots itch to self-improve.

Mr Atlas's article may have echoes of a male mid-life crisis. Nor is he the first to wait that "fingers ain't wot they used to be".

He bangs on about the good old Sixties with LSD and a Freak Brothers-style VW minibus, but we have had the corpses of Jerry Garcia and Timothy Leary for that.

However, his New Yorker article may be the most surprising, refreshing piece of Manhattan commentary this year.

It has broken a vital rule. If you belong to the pleasure-deprived tribe he describes, the last thing you should do is to confess to the world that you are having a thoroughly miserable time. But Mr Atlas has stripped away a lie. Perhaps next time he goes to a spring drinks party and meets a pillow-lipped publicist he will follow the example of the lusty old bra strap-snapper. Perhaps he will give life a damned good twang.

Sick of mixing

Forget the political jargon of the Patient's Charter, mixed-sex wards are just another money-saver

All doctors know that the Patient's Charter has made life harder for them, but what the patients don't seem to realise is that it makes it worse for them, too. All these charters do is offer a conduit for people's concerns; they do absolutely nothing to allay them. They are thus nothing short of a brilliant device for making everyone feel hard done by.

Take the Patient's Charter approach to mixed-sex wards. It or rather the Department of Health, recognises that these are unpopular with the public. So what is to be done? Not get rid of them — that costs money. Instead, we are pandered to by being given the right to be told in advance if we are to be admitted to a mixed-sex ward. We might have no choice in the matter thereafter, but a right's a right, isn't it, and how can it therefore be wrong?

This is nonsense, of course. But so potent is the contemporary language of rights that it drowns out more gentle reasoning. And what is at stake here — a person's wish to insist on (rather than resist) sex segregation — has no less fallen foul of the modern orthodoxy. Sex segregation wherever it occurs must be a Bad Thing, so the thinking goes, and those who champion it are at best old-fashioned and irrelevant, at worst reactionary and downright sexist. The real reason for mixed-sex wards is financial — but it helps that there is the pseudo-political patter to go with it.

Now, nobody is arguing that this would matter in an emergency. All we want then is to be treated as fast and as effectively as possible — and it doesn't, frankly, matter if there is someone from a different solar system in the next bed, let alone of a different sex. But because that holds true, we are made to feel as if we're being petty, hung-up on trifles if we say that in other circumstances we mind having to be treated in a mixed-sex ward.

But people do mind. I doubt the Patient's Association is putting it too strongly when it declares that a

mixed-sex ward is "an affront to privacy and dignity". (These days, those very terms seem almost quaint but what does that say itself?) Those who think the fuss is silly beyond belief are being remarkably silly themselves. You cannot just wave away such concerns as irrelevant when they are so sincerely, anxiously held.

I suspect that most of the people who object are older, but that doesn't make it a marginal complaint. All people, of whatever age, are

with sexual images, but remarkably innocent about the primitive power of sexual feelings. Women, understandably riled by years of being described only in terms of their sexual attractiveness to men, idiotically chant the mantra about caring about their appearance for themselves alone. Narcissism — the wearisome preserve of the I-wear-this-microskirt-for-myself brigade — is applauded, but wishing to be attractive to the opposite sex is deemed downright despicable, castigated as victim behaviour.

But if women mind lying about in their nighties, being attended to medically, while a man is in the bed next door, it is because it offends their sexual vanity. None of us feels any better for being seen at our worst. I suspect men mind the mixed-sex ward slightly less, if only because men's sexual confidence seems to hold up rather better than women's. And of course, they already have the nurses around.

I shouldn't be surprised if men preferred mixed-sex wards. After all, men are used to being surrounded by women when they are ill and they are prepared to show weakness in front of women in a way they would hate to in front of other men. I think it is different for women: we tend to feel we have to be stronger, better, when there are men around. Men need women to be all these things, and we take it to heart.

Historically, it is true that segregation has generally been the way the powerful excluded the less powerful. But while we should be alert to pernicious discrimination, we shouldn't deny that sometimes segregation between the sexes can be mutually desired, perhaps even beneficial. And some of the arguments against fail to convince. For people to want to spend some time in the company of their own sex is not the same thing as demanding the right to spend time with people of the same race. Sophists might dissallow the distinction, but the rest of us can tell the difference easily enough.



Nigella Lawson

at their frailest and most vulnerable when they are in hospital, and it cannot help their treatment if their stay there increases that sense of vulnerability. This may not be one to go to the barricades for, but it is worth taking seriously.

What is behind the confusion about whether it matters is a confusion — a very modern confusion — about the sexes and the differences between them. On the one hand, contemporary wisdom holds that any distinctions made between the sexes are abhorrent and at best conditioned by a culture obsessed with sexual stereotypes; on the other, we are obsessed with a Seventies sitcom view of a battle between the sexes, concerning who's better, more moral, superior, inferior.

And then — just to complicate matters — there is the confusion about sex itself. Our culture is bombarded

The great escape.

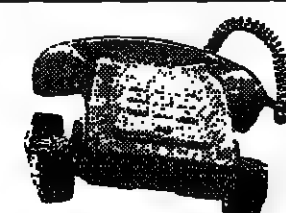
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Alan Coren



I need assistance. And if I don't get it, I may sulk and suck my thumb

I lay in bed this morning, trying to work out what I needed, and by the time I got up at half-past nine, I had worked out exactly what I needed. I needed somebody to get me up before half-past nine.

Most mornings, I do not even lie there working things out. I just lie there. Every morning, Mr and Mrs Coren wake up at 7.15, one of them goes off to work at 8, and the other one just lies there, because when he goes off to work, he goes off to it in the loft, and since he doesn't have to go to any particular time, he just lies there. After a couple of hours, he plops downstairs and wonders whether to make himself a cooked breakfast. He would like a cooked breakfast, it would do him good, it would set him up for the day, it would send him bounding into the loft, but he cannot be bothered to cook it, so he stares out of the window for an hour wondering whether to go for a walk round the park instead, it would do him good, it would set him up for the day, it would send him bounding into the loft. But he lives a mile from the park, if he walked to it he would not have the energy left to walk round it; he would have to drive to it, but if he drove to it he would have to leave his car outside it, and when he got back he would find a ticket under his wiper, and a clamp on his wheel, and a gap where his radio used to be.

But if he had someone to get him out of bed at 8.30, the someone could not only make him a cooked breakfast, porridge, boiled eggs, soldiers, but also drive him to the park, wait, and after his walk tell him it was now time to be a good boy and go to the loft and get on with his work.

Yes, that is what I finally worked out this morning. I need a nanny. A nanny is the only cure not merely for the indolence of the solitary hack, but for the habits even worse than indolence which indolence generates. Like smoking too much. I cannot cut down alone, I need someone to cry: "Take that filthy thing out of your mouth!" Like drinking too much. I cannot cut down alone. I need someone with the sideboard-key in her pinny and a tablespoon in her hand, who, once a day, would poke a small Glenlivet into my mouth. Unless, that is, she had caught me watching television too much: I cannot cut down alone. I have a set in the loft, I watch *Neighbours*, I watch *Countdown*, I watch *Seaside Story*. I need someone to cry: "Just half an hour a day, my little man, or it's no whisky for you!"

Also: "True for your 40 winks!" I need someone to cry that, too. Most afternoons, I rack up 500 winks, minimum, check on the desk, knuckles on the floor (especially after four fingers of Scotch and a large *Blue Peter*), but I cannot cut down alone. I need someone to bound into the loft, preferably with a glass of Tizer and a couple of HobNobs, and shake me, and tell me to sit up straight, because it is time to get back to work. And I would not complain about that work, I would not swear or kick the computer or decide to chuck it all in and retrain as a rag-and-bone man, because, if I did, Nanny would wash my mouth out with Lifebuoy and make me stand in the corner until it was time for my bath.

I really need someone at bedtime. I need someone to bath me, and make me all nice before Mrs Coren gets home. If I bath myself, the odds are that when Mrs Coren gets home, she will find me, thanks to the empty glass on the floor, having 500 winks in it, prone-shrivelled, surrounded by bobbing dog-dens, chill to the touch, and thus as far from all nice as it is possible to get. How much more pleasing for Mrs Coren to turn her key in the lock and hear the cry: "He's all ready, Madame!" and see me tripping down the stairs, ears spotted, hair brushed, teeth flossed, and — because I have been such a good boy — allowed to play with her until it was time to go to bed, or even vice-versa.

Leaving only the matter of catching up on my reading. I do not do enough, it is tricky holding a big book when you are also holding a big glass and a big cigar, two pages and I throw in the towel, what joy to be tucked in by a qualified tucker who would then lift a chapter or two of Rushdie until my lids drooped nodwards. Having to knock off a preliminary vesper is a small price to pay. God bless Nanny, I know that's right. Time to put an ad in *The Lady*.



"Er... on second thoughts..." *Red Brooke*

In league with ignorance

Tables disguise failure, distort study, degrade teachers and mislead parents

Today *The Times* publishes a survey that will delight some schools throughout England and Wales, and dismay and demoralise many. It is the annual secondary school league table. Since strong schools need no state encouragement, we must assume that the collation and publication of this material is justified as a goad to the weak. The cheapest way to improve the education of all is by the public humiliation of failure.

The cult of the league table is driving British bureaucracy close to hysteria. There are league tables of hospital deaths, police responses, academic output, cervical cancers, benefit fraud, court occupancy, beach cleansing, rent collecting and local council efficiency. There are league tables of cities and countries, most based on surveys and statistics that are daft beyond belief. The richest "countries" turn out to be cities, such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Luxembourg — by which token London is the richest of all.

Some of these tables have curiosity value. They pander to the public's fascination with a horse race or a song contest. Most are like the potions of 18th-century quacks. They are offered as a cure for a supposed illness and validated by spurious statistics. School league tables were pioneered by broadsheet newspapers after the standardisation of university entry in the 1980s. Parents who could afford boarding schools and so enjoyed genuine choice could order their preferences from "best school guides". Exam results seemed an advance on word of mouth.

The league idea was seized by John Patten, when he was Education Secretary, and extended to state schools. He took an existing, valid requirement that schools make their exam results available to parents and used it for a nationwide carnival of institutional success and failure. The good were lauded, the bad excoriated. As Mr Patten's patron saint, Mr Grangir, would have said, schools and their pupils were thus taught a lesson in facts.

When the tables began there was much hogwash about them being "only one of the factors" that should be used to judge a school. That is like saying a rugby international is essentially about sportsmanship. Anyone reading today's league table will see that all pretence has been abandoned. These tables will "make or break a career" and guide parents to the "good school". Head teachers

and governors know what these tables mean. They have transformed the atmosphere of every school I know.

Three years ago on this page I criticised the advent of league tables by writing a spoof bursar's report to his governors. He declared that drastic measures were needed. Teachers would be paid by exam results. Pupils likely to score less than grade C must be expelled. Sports and hobbies must be scrapped. Playing fields must be sold and the money spent on talent scouts to raid other schools for high-performing pupils. As for the head, he would be sacked each year if the school did not rise in the league.

I meant it satirically. Yet every one of these predictions has come true. Bounties in the form of scholarships are being paid to transferring sixth-formers. Bonuses are paid to talented scouts. Staff at Wycliffe College are paid £1,000 for each child they can find. Last month the Headmaster of Cheltenham College, Peter Wilkes, was sacked despite overwhelming support from parents. The governors feared that a fall in the school's league-table rank might damage its commercial future. Expulsions of low-grade children are soaring, with heads admitting that only 25 per cent of these are for disruptive behaviour. The startling collapse of school sport has been accelerated by the league tables.

Small wonder these tables come with ample evidence of their own success. A-level pass rates have risen for 13 years in succession, with corresponding inflation of A-grade passes. So what? When hospitals are paid per "medical incident", patients are admitted to and ejected from wards like pellets in a pea-shooter. If we reward judges for the number of accused they send to jail, we shall fill the jails. None of this tells us anything of the quality of the service provided, merely how individuals respond to financial incentives.

The evidence of the league tables so far is that the "best" schools become more popular. Further down the list,

anarchy reigns. In a report last year, the Royal Statistical Society pointed out that the numbers involved at each grade are too small for realistic (let alone fair) comparison between schools. The statisticians declared them "meaningless". Tiny shifts in performance could produce huge movements up and down the table: two pupils off sick at exam time could move a small school down 50 places. The result is an inevitable incentive to distort pupils' education. To avoid jeopardising a ranking, individuals are shifted into and out of general studies or discouraged from sitting exams in which they might score D or E grades.

More serious are the increasing numbers of studies (reported in *The Times* last October) which show that schools are losing in the bottom 20 per cent of each ability range and concentrating on the middle ranges to push them up into C and B grades. The most severe decline in performance against the average was in the lowest 10 per cent of secondary pupils. These are the pupils who are the biggest risk to the community and to whom schools should be giving special attention. League tables appear to be having the opposite effect.

Britain's problem does not lie with the ability of the top 40-50 per cent of pupils. Every expert who has studied the composition of British labour since the war has reached the same conclusion: the biggest handicap is the poor quality of the least skilled section of the workforce. Government policy, both on restoring selective secondary schooling and on league tables, flies in the face of this. It offers schools a blatant incentive to ignore the needs of the least able and to concentrate on the stars. They, or at least their parents, have the floating votes.

Even this primitive elitism might be valid if exam results measured what communities want from their schools. They do not. They are proxies. They merely show how far the staff of a school

have mastered the art of "filling little pitchers with water". They show the same craze for quantifying a profession's output that performance audit is now inflicting on the work of doctors, academics, lawyers and public administrators. In education, that most intangible of public services, these auditors look for any bean they can count: class size, number of science pupils, weeks taken to order an equipment item — and above all, exam results.

The high priests of this audit sit far removed from those whose labours they assess and fund. We should not be surprised that they grasp at any statistics that come to hand when they never see faces. This quantification in turn distorts the character of the examination. Results must be standardised and rendered statistically robust. The questions should be "right or wrong", multiple-choice, modular and tabular, as against essays or coursework. Professional discretion must be minimised. The bureaucrat must be in control.

If the gods of politics must have tables, then we should at least appease them with research that is relevant to a school's real mission. This is surely to fashion a citizen to play a mature role as a member of a family, the community and the economy. In which case, why not measure how well a school's leavers fare in the job market? Or how many secure a training qualification, or a university place? Or how much they are earning after, say, five and ten years? Or how well do they acclimatise to adult life, how many are on social benefits, are divorced or give up exercise? Why not survey what pupils feel later about the school and what it taught them?

None of these "outputs" features in today's league tables. I wonder why. They are too much like real life, too relevant and too difficult. They would also mean government directing the work of teachers away from nationalised norms and towards a reliance on their own professionalism in handling pupils. Exam results are a cheap and easy way for governments to take credit for making schools appear to excel. They show how well schools can turn out on the parade ground, like Cardigan's Light Brigade, not how well they fight.

League tables are erecting a wall of statistics round schools, shielding them from true accountability to their communities. Behind these walls, they are turning Britain's secondary schools into state-regulated crannets.

Simon Jenkins

Chunnel cuts it too fine

Michael Dynes tells how safety was compromised

Despite the elaborate precautions taken to protect the Channel Tunnel against earthquakes, fire, terrorist attacks and rabies, Eurotunnel officials will be aware that the sky has suddenly become black with chickens that have come home to roost.

Throughout the construction of the £10 billion link, Eurotunnel was bombarded with allegations that safety issues were shrouded in a "wall of secrecy" that put profits before people. Such allegations were repeatedly dismissed as "mischievous" by Eurotunnel executives, who were adamant that the tunnel's safety mechanisms would make it the most reliable transport system in the world.

The fire which raged for more than 12 hours on one of the company's HGV wagons has clearly caught Eurotunnel off guard. Although there was no loss of life or serious injury, the safety system did not work as effectively as it should. These failings have revived safety concerns. Eurotunnel will now have to conduct a thorough reassessment of safety systems, to assuage public worries.

The inquiry into what went wrong will have to address a number of pressing questions. What caused the fire in the first place? Was the vehicle where the blaze started carrying prohibited flammable material? How did the fire spread so quickly to 15 other heavy goods vehicles? Why was the train not decoupled and quickly removed from the tunnel? Why was the tunnel "chocolate" with smoke when the powerful ventilation system should have been able to direct smoke and toxic fumes away from passengers? Why did the authorities wait an hour before summoning the Kent fire brigade to help their French counterparts?

The two-man Anglo-French Channel Tunnel safety authority, set up in 1987 to ensure the highest possible safety standards, met hastily yesterday to begin looking for answers. But the matter that will concern Eurotunnel more than any other is the design of the HGV wagons themselves — not least because of the questionable methods the company used to get its own way when the rolling-stock was being designed.

While the contractors were still digging out the mud, the Channel Tunnel safety authority began investigating the safety, transportation and communications systems. In great secrecy, many thousands of detailed technical documents were poured over by the authority's experts.

Demand that these technical documents should be made publicly available were dismissed by the safety authority on the grounds that it would be impractical and time-consuming. Moreover, the authority insisted that most of the documents would be incomprehensible to the layman, and the creation of another body to oversee its work would cause delays.

There can be little doubt, however, that the way the tunnel was designed and built complicated the safety authority's task. Because of tight construction deadlines, the design of different aspects of the tunnel had to be submitted in rough and approved in principle before the detailed design work was completed.

That procedure led to a number of clashes between Eurotunnel and safety officials. In February 1992, for example, Eurotunnel's chief executive, Sir Alastair Morton, made it known that he was considering legal action because of the "excessive safety precautions" being demanded. One of the bitterest rows concerned the HGV shuttle design. After submitting a proposal for fully enclosed HGVs, Eurotunnel opted for a revised, semi-enclosed design. Safety officials insisted that semi-enclosed wagons presented an unacceptable risk, especially if one caught fire, and rejected the design. But Eurotunnel had already ordered the shuttles from the manufacturer, having gambled that it would be able to talk the authority round.

The semi-enclosed design was derived from Alpine rail tunnels, where lorries, cars and coaches have been carried without a single serious incident since the 1960s. Because of Eurotunnel's need to carry 44-ton juggernauts, Sir Alastair was desperate to reduce the weight of the new rolling stock so as not to put too great a strain on the axles. The authority had to reconcile its assessment of what was needed to make the tunnel safe with what Eurotunnel thought was necessary to make the tunnel commercially viable. A compromise was reached. Eurotunnel incorporated additional fire-detection and suppression systems, and kept the semi-enclosed design.

At the time, Brian Martin, then head of the safety authority's UK delegation, told *The Times*: "Eurotunnel's [final] proposal is likely to be safer than the revised design. But it is likely to be less safe than the original." The safety authority's task is not to decide whether it is possible to achieve greater safety — you can always do that — but whether it is adequately safe.

Eurotunnel always knew that its decision to order semi-enclosed rolling stock meant a significantly greater risk of fire spreading rapidly. The safety authority, under the threat of legal action from Eurotunnel, abandoned its better judgment. That there has been only one serious fire in 30 months is testimony to a high level of safety, but that one fire is also a reminder that the Channel Tunnel is not immune from a catastrophic failure of its safeguards.

Scott free?

THERE is dry sherry on the carpet in Kensington and Chelsea, where the fate of Nicholas "Scott" Scott, resident MP and scoundrel of pills, has still to be decided by local Tories.

Constituency members are livid after being circulated with a newsletter from their chairman informing them that Scott has requested a special meeting on December 2 in Kensington Town Hall. "The meeting has been called to hear an address from the prospective parliamentary candidate (ie Scott), and to decide whether or not to endorse the decision taken in general meeting on 10th November 1995 [sic] to adopt Sir Nicholas Scott."

No mention is made of the constituency meeting on November 4, 1996, when Scott was given the thumbs-down by the executive committee after his theatrical performance at the Tory conference when he left a party in the early hours only to be found face down in a gutter, his memory shot.

"This will be the first time ever that Kensington and Chelsea has in effect held a de-selection committee," says one peppy Tory. "And yet they have the gall not to

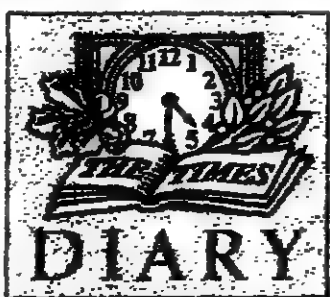
mention this local difficulty. It's disgusting. They must still think he'll be able to keep the seat warm for Chris Patten's return after the election."

May showers

CHILDISHNESS is being inflicted on Maidenhead's Conservatives by Theresa May, their prospective parliamentary candi-



"Looks like we're passing over the Chunnel..."



date. A series of goo-goo press releases has been issued on her behalf. For example: "Prime Minister helps Theresa May celebrate 40th birthday. Life begins at 40 and Theresa May... got her birthday off to a good start on September 27 when the Prime Minister helped her celebrate and blow out the candles on her cake." Underneath an accompanying photograph is the caption "One big blow and together we'll do it."

It gets worse. "Theresa May meets Norwegian vigneron in Littlewick Green" is a Trumpion-esque tale not worth the telling.

Two Shakes

THESE are good times for George "Dodie" Rylands, 94. Fellow of King's College, Cambridge and former heart-throb of the Bloomsbury set. On Sunday evening, his

life and Shakespearean scholarship were celebrated at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, by a cast led by Ian McKellen. Now Polygram has announced that it is to re-release the complete works of Shakespeare as recorded by Rylands for the British Council between 1957 and 1963.

The productions include Peggy Aschroft playing Desdemona in *Othello*, Derek Jacobi as Hamlet and Peter Peas as Feste in *Twelfth Night*, all recorded in the ADC Theatre in Cambridge during the long vacation.

"If a dog barked or an aeroplane flew overhead," said Rylands yesterday, "we would have to redo whole chunks. I'm delighted they're reissuing it — absolutely all for it."

No beau

THE FIRE in the Chunnel caused a number of difficulties for Eurostar's promotions team. Not least their hopes of winning the race for the Beaujolais nouveau. They had decided that the direct shuttle service to the middle of France via Lille offered the best hope of coming first in the tired old event.

Plans to take wine-bibbers to Lyons today were abandoned, dining bookings were cancelled and hopes of pressing a bottle of the



Taylor, Peacock and Fortensky: choose two

newly released vinegar into journalists' hands at midnight went by the way.

Liz or Larry?

BETTY BOOTHROYD'S showbiz background got the better of her yesterday. The former Tiller girl was calling on Elizabeth Peacock, Conservative MP for Bailey and Spent, to ask a question, when her usually faultless delivery short-circuited: she called the lady "Elizabeth Taylor".

The mistake brought a massive cheer all round and a scarlet blush to the downy cheek of Mrs Peacock, who for my money looks

rather more like Miss Taylor's most recent husband, Larry Fortensky.

Do not expect to find any Tom Cruise fans in the vicinity of Luton Hoo, the Bedfordshire stately home. Eyes Wide Shut, his latest movie — directed by Stanley Kubrick and also starring Mrs Cruise, Nicole Kidman — has overrun its filming schedule, meaning there will be no Christmas craft fair at the house. For the first time in years, the 5,000 craft-fanciers will have to travel further afield for their knick-knacks.

P.H.S

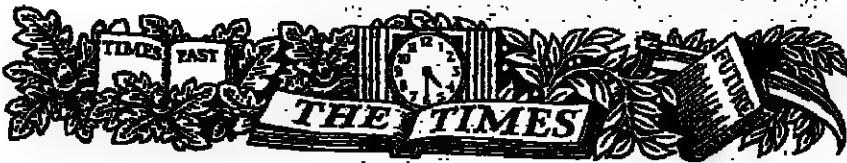
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The Boat

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صباح الخير

Chunni cuts it 100 fine



THIRD-BEST BUDGET

Without a tough Budget, Clarke will have to raise interest rates

The most important boast that Kenneth Clarke can make when he presents his Budget is that the problems he faces as Chancellor are the problems of success. Mr Clarke has presided over Britain's transformation from the weakest to the strongest economy in Europe. The main problems which Britain now faces — modestly accelerating inflation, an over-expensive currency and interest rates which are now higher than in any other advanced economy — are minor in comparison with the long-term stagnation afflicting Germany, France and Japan.

Mr Clarke was, of course, lucky to have moved into the Treasury after Norman Lamont had made many of the tough decisions that were needed to fill the gaping hole in the Government's finances left by the ERM recession. But Mr Clarke deserves credit for having pressed on with Mr Lamont's unpopular programme of public spending cuts and increasing taxes — and for the generally good judgment he has shown in managing interest rates.

The question now is whether Mr Clarke can live up to the fine record he himself has set. The best policy for a country to pursue when confronted with the twin problems of accelerating inflation and a rapidly rising currency is clear. It is to reduce the Government's budget deficit by substantially cutting public spending. Cuts in public spending release resources for the private sector and dampen down inflation, making it possible to reduce interest rates and thereby take upward pressure off the pound. But the Government's loss of self-confidence, combined with the electoral timetable, seems to have precluded the kind of bold initiatives, for example in social security reform, which might have produced big reductions in public spending — as opposed to mere reductions in its rate of growth.

If really substantial spending cuts are off the political agenda, Mr Clarke must reach for the second-best instrument to manage demand and keep inflation under control: he must either raise interest rates or increase taxes. Nobody likes paying taxes and an increase in taxes may be considered a

counsel of despair, particularly for a Tory Government. Yet tax increases can, sometimes be far less damaging to the economy than higher interest rates. Mr Clarke should be the first to recognise this, having carried through so successfully Mr Lamont's post-ERM strategy of sharply raising taxes and sharply reducing interest rates.

On present tax and spending policies, the Government will continue to run a large budget deficit as far ahead as the eye can see, putting an ever-greater burden of public debt on future generations. Higher taxes must be considered a serious option. In the present circumstances, with British interest rates already higher than in any other advanced economy, with the pound rising rapidly and with exports, manufacturing and investment still playing a weak part in the economy's growth, higher taxes would clearly be preferable to higher interest rates — just as they proved to be in the 1993 Budget and, before that, in Sir Geoffrey Howe's controversial Budget of 1981.

But whatever the economic arguments and historic precedents may point to, Mr Clarke is unlikely to announce either a net increase in taxes or a net reduction in spending next week. The most that can be hoped is that he will maintain a tight grip on the growth of public spending and keep net tax reductions to below £2 billion. With the best and second-best policies for controlling demand and inflation apparently ruled out, the Chancellor will be left with the third-best option: a higher interest rate. The question Mr Clarke and the country will have to face in the months before the election is whether interest should continue rising, or whether a little more leeway on inflation should be allowed.

If Mr Clarke were prepared to announce really tough policies on taxes and public spending, any further increase in interest rates could be ruled out and last month's rise could even be reversed. But in the absence of a tight Budget, he will have to continue raising interest rates. The policy Mr Clarke appears to have chosen is only the third-best policy available but is better than allowing inflation to get out of control.

NIGHTMARE SCENARIO

Lessons to be learnt but Le Shuttle will go on

The devastating fire that broke out in the Channel Tunnel did not cost any lives. But it could cost an inestimable amount in loss of confidence, loss of earnings and loss of national pride in the £10 billion enterprise. The Government has properly insisted on a full inquiry, and the French Government is likely to echo this demand. Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, told Parliament that tunnel services cannot be resumed until absolute safety can be guaranteed. The inferno has caused considerable damage: so intense was the heat that the train wheels were welded to the rails. It will take weeks before the tunnel can be fully repaired, and even longer before all the questions raised can be resolved.

Despite the panic and pain of the victims, the terrible speed of the conflagration and the inexplicable failure of communication between the English and French emergency services, the rescue operation on the whole seems to have worked well. The passengers were led to safety; the drills, last practised only ten days ago during a mock emergency, were properly implemented; and the rescuers' courageous and quick-thinking. Events could otherwise have been far worse. This was, as safety experts said, the very "nightmare scenario" that they had dreaded: a rapidly spreading fire, emitting dense clouds of toxic smoke, breaking out close to the rear engine as the train was midway through the tunnel.

The absence of a heavier toll is retrospective justification for the insistence, during construction, on rigorous safety standards;

even if these contributed to the huge cost overruns and the delay in opening the tunnel. Nevertheless, there remain serious unanswered questions. On the technical side, it is unclear why the tunnel ventilators were not better able to clear the choking smoke that smothered several victims. The train, with engines at either end, is designed to decouple so that passengers can be pulled clear of the disaster. But this did not happen. Why did the French not contact Kent fire crews until about an hour after the accident?

The most controversial question, however, is likely to relate to the transport of highly dangerous materials through the tunnel. Polystyrene is extraordinarily toxic if it catches fire, and other substances, such as alcohol, certain chemicals and flammable materials are known fire hazards. An inspection of each cargo is impractical: the point of Le Shuttle is that it should be a virtual moving highway, able to carry whatever can legally be carried by road without hold-ups or cumbersome paperwork. There will be inevitable calls for more rigorous checks on loads and for the compartments containing heavy goods vehicles to be sealed.

The danger is that the tunnel will be seen as accident-prone: late in opening, deep in debt, already the victim of two minor accidents and now this. Such a perception would be a blow to the attempts to bolster traffic and make the best commercial use of this unique link to the Continent. Despite Monday's fire, such a perception would also be wrong.

ROW AGAINST THE TIDE

The Boat Race needs its amateur spirit restored

An outbreak of common sense is always to be welcomed. The tentative agreement between the respective rowing authorities of Oxford and Cambridge to establish ground rules for the recruitment of oarsmen is long overdue. The present "gentleman's agreement" has long been worn less than the paper it was not written on.

Rowing used to be such an uncomplicated pursuit. Wholesomely amateur, it stood as the ultimate team sport where the performance of the crew depended on the power of the entire unit. It demands an astonishingly varied range of physical strength and skill. The annual contest between Oxford and Cambridge reflected those virtues and was appreciated for it. At some point a sense of proportion was lost. During the 1980s both ancient universities became increasingly ruthless in their pursuit of glory. In the process they forgot the virtues that had maintained the event since 1829.

There is a thin line between aggressive competition and creeping professionalism. Oxford stretched matters by their shameful recruitment from North America. As the film *True Blue* recounts, this has proved a recruitment disaster. In the last contest there was only one undergraduate in the Dark Blue boat. Meanwhile, the obscure Diploma in Social Studies has enjoyed an extraordinary boom — especially at Keble College — and may be the only course in the

Western world where the average student exceeds six foot in height. Then the Light Blues hit back. In 1994 Cambridge invented bursaries worth up to £5,000 for impoverished athletes.

This introduction of what Oxford described as "cheque-book rowing" threatened an escalation in combat to the point where academic standards were jettisoned entirely. Fortunately, it looks as if wiser heads may have prevailed. It would be thoroughly healthy if the Boat Race was once again fought between crews consisting of conventional students who balanced their sporting efforts with scholastic endeavours. In days of old a Blue could only be awarded during the first 12 terms of university life. The enormous expansion of postgraduate courses during the past 20 years would make such a rule unreasonable now, but its spirit still has much to commend it.

Some might dismiss such a view as dated. Sponsorship and massive television audiences, it is argued, demand more than the amateur tradition can provide. This misses the point entirely. Every year hundreds of not thousands of professional events grace our sporting schedule. If the Boat Race becomes just one more it will simply fade into the pack. The strength of this institution lies in its unique character. Oxford and Cambridge should use this code of conduct to preserve it.

'Let the bankers handle the money'

From Mr R. H. Wilson

Sir, I always thought that the objection on the part of William Rees-Mogg and others to the European Central Bank was primarily that it would be composed of unelected officials. Thus, monetary (and in turn fiscal) policy would be outside the control of the democratically elected representatives of the people.

I am pleased to note that, at least as far as the Bank of England is concerned ("Keep sterling safe for future generations", November 18), this objection no longer stands. Presumably, therefore, an independent European Central Bank is equally valid? If it will after all be modelled on the Bundesbank and the US Federal Reserve.

It has always been a mystery to me that so many people have supported "democratic control" over monetary policy when these elected representatives of the people have decimated the currency over the years. In 1961 I could buy DM11.20 with my pound. Perhaps, though, I am underestimating the comfort value of having the Queen's head on the currency.

On the basis that EMU takes place on the back of economic convergence, an independent European Central Bank is no different from an independent Bank of England. Thus in any referendum the anti-EMU arguments are becoming less significant. Furthermore, such a referendum will probably take place at a time when UK short-term interest rates are likely to be in the region of 7 per cent and those in "inner Europe" around 3 per cent.

Who knows, somebody may point to the advantage to the UK economy of significantly lower interest rates. I wonder what the millions of mortgage holders might think?

Yours faithfully,
R. H. WILSON,
12 Ingles Road, W5,
November 11.

From Mr Mark Hardy

Sir, I believe that Llew Smith, MP (letter, November 18), misunderstands why many of the British public would like to join the European monetary union at the earliest possible moment. He writes "a single currency will oblige Britain to become a member of the European Central Bank, the executive of which will be appointed for eight years... no one will be able to remove them". That alone is one of the best reasons for joining.

The sooner MPs realise that our economy would be better run by bankers and long-term strategists, who are free from political interference and short-term electoral manipulation, the better it will be for all of us.

The success of the United States economy is, in part, due to the President and Congress not being allowed (by law) to interfere with or try and influence Alan Greenspan as the Federal Reserve. The independence of the Bundesbank has worked extremely well for Germany over the years.

Yours faithfully,
MARK HARDY,
52 Argyle Mansions,
Kings Road, SW3,
November 18.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, At least all three major parties are now committed to a referendum on the single currency (leading article, November 18) but we should not underestimate their appetite for deception.

If, for instance, our negotiating team is led by an individual, such as Kenneth Clarke, who regarding Europe seems to be contemptuous of the public will, we may find that by the time we have our chance to vote at the referendum we have been boxed into a corner because our defences outside the single currency have been undermined.

If, as Sir Roy Denman says (letter, November 16), our EU partners are clear about their destination and "Britain can no more stop this than could King Canute the tide" then we should take his advice and make up our minds once and for all.

We should hold a referendum as soon as possible on the question of whether or not we wish to achieve the destination that Sir Roy quotes as "fiscal, social, monetary, and ultimately political union".

If we vote "no", then the UK Government will have the duty to negotiate a relationship with the EU as close to the Common Market concept we voted for at the last referendum as can be achieved, consistent with the re-establishment of our independent democracy but with the latter taking priority.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Camden Hill Square, W8,
November 18.

From Mr Michael Hart

Sir, The arrival of another grandchild seems to have wondrously demised Lord Rees-Mogg's vision of the future. The euro "would not be as good as the mark, but it might be better than an inflationary pound". Precisely. Which is why it is likely to be more risky to stay out of the single currency than to go in.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HART,
49 Chesterfield Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
November 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5080

League tables as guide to schools

From the Headmaster of St Hugh's School, Faringdon

Sir, I am saddened by the observations on academic league tables by Dr John Rae, a former Head Master of Westminster School ("A triumph for parental choice", November 18).

Dr Rae acknowledges the limitations and inconsistencies of what I, along with many others, regard as flawed statistics, yet claims that they are "so useful to parents selecting a school".

Far from being the "triumph for parental choice", league tables are threatening to do great disservice to the cause of education. Many decisions about the opportunities available to pupils are now being made from a fear of their perceived effect on league-table positions rather than from a consideration of how best to help the individual: this is true of academic options and of the wider aspects of education alike.

Luckily, those of us who work in preparatory schools know that most parents are too perceptive to fall for the simplistic argument that good A-level results this year promise similar attainments for pupils six or more years ahead — or that good academic results are obtainable only in self-professed "academic" schools.

Choice of schools is never easy for parents, who can do no better than visualise their children's likely performance in any environment. For those such as Dr Rae to suggest that flawed league tables offer serious guidance is at best sad, at worst cruelly misleading. Far greater wisdom is encapsulated in the heading lower down the same page: "Parents should trust their instincts more." That in the end is the only way.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK CANNON,
Headmaster, St Hugh's School,
Carswell Manor,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire,
November 18.

Quality of MPs' debate on gun law

From Mr Michael Bartlett

Sir, "For good or ill, the Dunblane parents terrified the Commons yesterday", argues Matthew Parris in his Political Sketch today. His coolness amid the passion engendered by the handgun debate can only be welcomed.

Legislation must come through sensible and thorough consultation and debate. Parliament's role is to be able to step back from a tragedy such as Dunblane and after careful deliberation, and without emotional involvement, either pass laws which will work, or conclude that some things are beyond its power. This is how MPs serve us, and it is not always a task to be relished.

The real "feel good" factor is provided by the MPs who voted to ban all handguns, presumably in the belief that that would be that. I believe murdering children has always been illegal, but tragically, this law too will always be broken.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BARTLETT,
Flat 4, 297 Trinity Road, SW18,
November 19.

Churchyard history

From Mr Richard Smart

Sir, It is good to learn that information from some 25,000 war memorials is being collected by the Imperial War Museum and transferred to a database which will soon be accessible to the public (letters, November 4). There is also, however, a huge amount of information of importance to genealogists and family historians in the form of perhaps ten million non-military gravestones in our country's churchyards and burial grounds, most of which are unrecorded and crumbling into decay and illegibility.

Many groups, notably family history societies, are recording the information from them on a local basis before it is too late.

The task is a massive one. There are no accurate figures of the total

number of memorials or how many have been recorded (perhaps 10 per cent).

Would it not be a splendidly appropriate project for the millennium to mobilise groups of people all over the country to go out into the churchyards and burial grounds and rescue this unique source of information before it is too late? Even better if modern information technology, the computerised database, were harnessed to the task of making easily accessible to the public the unique genealogical information preserved by one of the most ancient — inscriptions on stone.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SMART
(Head of History),
De Montfort University Bedford,
Polhill Avenue, Bedford,
November 11.

Yours faithfully,
LARA GRIEVE,
Stoke Lodge,
Clee Down, Ludlow, Shropshire,
November 15.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.

From Mr Alasdair L. McClure

Sir, If "Academic league tables have become a vital aid", why don't they exist in, say, the German education system, which historically (and certainly since 1945) has outperformed our own system?

One reason I think is that all German schools (academic, technical and vocational) are funded sufficiently well to assure parents that their child/children receive the best possible education compatible with their abilities. Most German parents that I've spoken to in explaining the idea of league tables find the idea preposterous not to say warped.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. MCCLURE,
282 Smedley Street West,
Matlock, Derbyshire,
November 18.

From Lady Beauchamp

Sir, My dictionary defines a debate as "the formal presentation and opposition of a specific motion, followed by a vote". The implication of this is that those present at the debate listen to the arguments and vote after they have considered the merits of the opposing views expressed.

Parliament is supposed to be the best debating chamber in the world. How strange therefore that during the debate on the abolition of handguns yesterday, the chamber was less than a quarter full. Yet, as you report today, the division showed that 387 Members voted.

As the so-called debate on the subject of the motion clearly had no impact on the result of the vote, all MPs might just as well stay at home for all the motions that come before the House and fax their votes direct to the tellers.

Yours faithfully,
MARGOT BEAUCHAMP,
The Coach House,
4 Balfour Mews,
Sidmouth, East Devon,
November 19.

Library funding

From Dr J. R. Mason

Sir, May I add my voice to Mr F. Harrowell's (letter, November 15) pleading for MPs to campaign for the retention of local libraries?

The assurance given by Ms Anne Campbell, MP, on behalf of Information for All (letter, November 11), that everyone, wherever they live, will have access to the full range of electronic information services via the library service, can carry little weight with residents living in the Mill Road area of her Cambridge constituency, where her own Labour Party, in coalition with Liberal Democrats, shut down their library in March in the year of its centenary.

No doubt Ms Campbell's county council colleagues would lay the blame for the closure on the underfunding of local government by central government, but local residents, who have challenged county council cuttings and believe the library could be financed from within the county's libraries' budget, now join the "have nots", not merely in respect of information technology but of all the services offered by the library.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. MASON,
77 Tenison Road, Cambridge,
November 18.

Yours faithfully,
LARA GRIEVE,
Stoke Lodge,
Clee Down, Ludlow, Shropshire,
November 15.

Fit for the job?

From Mrs Helen Tarnoy

Sir, What a godsend to the Letters page! Your readers, I am sure, will be delighted to nominate those whose genius would have been lost to the world of art, letters, humanities, science, politics, sport et al. had their employment been conditional on an alcohol blood test (report, "Executive tests for drink diagnosis that cost job", November 12; letter, November 18).

I am happy to start the ball rolling with the late great Winston Churchill.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN TARNROY,
Gale,
Chelwood Gate, West Sussex,
November 12.

Citizenship bar on civil servants

From the Joint General Secretary of the Public Services Tax and Commerce Union

Sir, Mr Geoffrey Crawford is to be congratulated on his appointment as the Queen's new press secretary (report, November 19). As an Australian citizen, had he joined the Royal Household after June this year, he would have been barred from taking up the post under new rules introduced by the Government which prevent Irish and Commonwealth citizens from holding any post where a special relationship of allegiance to the Crown is considered to be a requirement for the job.

The Civil Service unions are campaigning against this recent change to the Civil Service nationality rules which clearly sends the message to Commonwealth and Irish citizens that they can no longer be trusted to administer the affairs of Her Majesty's Government.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE BROOKE,
Joint General Secretary,
Public Services Tax,
Commerce Union,
5 Great Suffolk Street, SE1,
November 19.

Establishment rebuff

From Mr M. Al Fayed

Sir, Many hard things have been said about me, but it is cruel beyond measure to imply that I am seeking acceptance by the "Establishment" ("Al Fayed set sights on revenge after takeover report", November 14). I am not seeking acceptance by any self-perpetuating caste. I only wish to share the nationality of my four British children.

I do not wish to receive honours or titles, I never go to fashionable restaurants and I cannot remember the last time I attended a reception or society gathering that was not directly connected with my commercial concerns. My interests are my family, my companies and my staff. I serve all my customers well — not just those who consider themselves to be the Establishment.

I have never kept the receipts of any journalist visiting L'Hôtel Ritz in Paris: nor did I put up the £7.8 million to keep Canova's statue *The Three Graces* in this country, though I offered to do so if no one else would foot the bill. I did not make a donation to the Hampton Court restoration fund, though I have admired the completed work and was pleased to present a promotion in my store on behalf of the Royal School of Needlework which is housed in the palace.

I am proud of my Egyptian origins but I love this country, even if that is unfashionable. Without wishing to boast, I should point out that my estate in Scotland is 50,000 acres, not 30,000 as recently enlarged it, not least in order that I might get even further away from the goings-on of some of the MPs who make up a decaying "Establishment" I would never join.

Yours faithfully,
M. AL FAYED
(Chairman), Harrods,
87/135 Brompton Road, SW1,
November 15.

Jam tomorrow

From Ms Jill Leyland

Sir, Your leading article commenting on future traffic flows (November 19) suggests that traffic volume is set to double from its present 25 million vehicles to 50 million by the year 2025.

Since the current population of this country is around 58 million and unlikely to grow much, if at all, by that date, who is going to be driving all these vehicles?

Are we assuming a reduction in the driving age to five years, that all schoolchildren will have their own Mercedes and that we will have no use for public transport? And are all these vehicles going to be on the road all the time?

I suggest a more careful look at these traffic forecasts.

Yours faithfully,
JILL LEYLAND (Consultant economist and statistician),
Bracken Ridge, 32 Birchwood Road,
Potts Wood, Kent,
November 19.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BRYAN KEITH-LUCAS

Bryan Keith-Lucas, CBE, Professor of Government, University of Kent, 1965-77, died on November 7 aged 84. He was born on August 1, 1912.

Bryan Keith-Lucas took an unfashionable area of the British constitution and made it his own. Yet his interest in local government, especially in parish councils and the historic boroughs and counties of England, was not solely academic. He was a fierce believer in grassroots democracy and was much involved in devising systems through which local communities could have a real say in their affairs. Furthermore, he was an active participant in local government, serving as a city councillor in Oxford for 15 years and, from 1964 to 1970, chairing the National Association of Parish Councils.

Bryan Keith-Lucas was born at Fen Dinton, the son of the Cambridge physiologist Dr Keith Lucas, FRS. He was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he had history and then economics. His involvement in local government began when he joined the town clerk's department at Kensington Town Hall where, on qualifying as a solicitor, he was appointed assistant solicitor to the royal borough in 1938.

As a student, Keith-Lucas had seen himself as a pacifist and, on the outbreak of the Second World War, being secure in a reserved occupation, he need not have volunteered for military service. However, he decided to enlist as a private in the Buffs, in due course receiving a commission and serving with the Sherwood Foresters in the North African and Italian campaigns. He was mentioned in

dispatches and ended the war as a major serving as DAAG in Cyprus.

At the end of the war he moved from Kensington to Nottinghamshire County Council and then in 1948 he switched from local government to academic life, becoming a senior lecturer in local government at Oxford. In 1952, he published the standard *History of Local Government* and edited the second edition of Redlich and Murr's *History of English Local Government*.

Keith-Lucas was a meticulous researcher who rediscovered long-forgotten characters and issues from the neglected county archives and gave them new life. It was then a measure of his skill and enthusiasm as a teacher that he could take a topic, perhaps one as uncompromising as 19th-century municipal drainage in England, and weave it into a lecture of humour and drama, impersonating to the full the pompous aldermen, dishonest town clerks and odious officials he had unearthed.

From his perspective, modern allegations of sleaze in public life had established precedents. In his work *The Unreformed Local Government System* (1980) he wrote of the state of the boroughs prior to 1835 that they were starting in their "corruption and mismanagement".

Being well aware of the dangers as well as the merits of local democracy, Keith-Lucas was ideally placed to advise governments. In 1954, he went to Sierra Leone to chair a committee on the electoral system. In 1955-56 he was in Mauritius, in 1963 in Lagos, and in 1975 he travelled to Fiji. In Britain from 1964 to 1967, he was a member of the Malley committee examining the staffing of local government, and in 1956 was



appointed to the Local Government Commission for England.

Keith-Lucas was closely involved in establishing two new institutions of higher education. As a Faculty Fellow of the young Nuffield College at Oxford and from 1957 to 1965 its domestic bursar, he helped to create an environment in which practising politicians

felt free to test their ideas with leading political scientists and theoreticians.

Then, on moving to the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1965 as the first Professor of Government, he set out to recreate the atmosphere of Oxford collegiate life in a modern campus setting. In 1970 he became the first Master of Darwin College.

The hospitality of Keith-Lucas and his wife Mary will be recalled with pleasure by hundreds of undergraduates and visiting academics. He would delight in recounting how their garden was an old burial ground and their home had once served as a "penury-right" doss house.

At Oxford Keith-Lucas had served as a vigorous and

ANDREW HUTCHINGS

Andrew Hutchings, CBE, former general secretary of the Assistant Masters Association, died on October 30 aged 88. He was born on December 3, 1907.

ANDREW HUTCHINGS served longer at the helm of a teachers' organisation than probably any other teaching union leader. When he retired in 1978 he had completed 30 years as general secretary of the Incorporated Association of Assistant Masters in Secondary Schools — more commonly known as the Assistant Masters Association. He was the only teachers' leader of his day who could (and did) boast that he had known every Education Minister since Ellen Wilkinson.

Andrew Hutchings' career began in the dark days just before the outbreak of the Second World War and ended with the Assistant Masters Association making peace with its sister organisation the Assistant Masters Association to form a new and formidable teachers' union, now known as the Association of Teachers and Lecturers.

He joined the teaching profession after reading mathematics and economics at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Appointed to the staff of Methodist College, Belfast, he was soon representing his colleagues in Northern Ireland and gained a reputation as a skilful negotiator. This led to his appointment as assistant secretary of the AMA in 1936. Within three years he became general secretary, a post he held for some four decades.

He made significant contributions to what proved a period of unprecedented change and turmoil. Between 1941 and 1943 he was part of an official investigation into the state of the curriculum and examinations in secondary schools (the Norwood committee). Flowing from this inquiry was a report which set a new standard in the great education debates that took place during the consensus years after the war.

Teachers were at the heart of that debate and for more than 13 years Hutchings chaired the negotiating body which determined their pay and conditions — the teachers' panel of the Burnham committee. Skill alone is not enough to explain how he held the chair for so long. The high personal esteem afforded to him by his counterparts in other larger teachers' organisations also counted in his favour. Both factors also explain his tenure as chairman of the committee that negotiated the provisions of the teachers' pension scheme, one of the largest in the public sector.

Throughout his years of union office, Hutchings never ran into the pressures of internal union politics. He deconstructed factions before they had even thought to form. He was a brilliant and charismatic speaker who never used notes, but, with an immaculate sense of timing and mood, could combine playing to the gallery without ever losing touch with the serious political agendas of the times. He interwove an appearance of intellectual effortlessness — even laziness — with an astute sense for what really mattered and when to intervene.

For a time either side of his retirement he was chairman of the National Federation of Educational Research (NFER), the country's major contributor to inquiries into educational standards, teaching methods and objectives. In part this was a just recognition of Hutchings' own contribution to education during the previous 40 years. But it was also a belated gesture of thanks, for in 1945 — in order to help to get the NFER off the ground — he forced the other teacher unions to follow his example by making an important and lasting donation to the foundation's coffers.

A founder member of the Associated Examining Board in 1955, he chaired its executive committee throughout the 1960s. He was vice-chairman of the board when the GCSE replaced O levels and the CSE examination, and until his death he held the honorary position of vice-president. Long after retiring he also chaired the National Institute of Industrial Psychology.

Having spent 20 years associated with the International Federation of Secondary Teachers which he had helped to set up, Hutchings was also a well known and respected figure abroad. He served 11 of those years as secretary-general and spent two spells as the federation's president. For more than two decades he was an executive member of the World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession, of which he had also been a founder.

A keen member of the Kennel Club, he was famous for his love of dogs. In partnership with his longstanding friend Norman Blagrove, he bred first Great Danes and (more recently) French bulldogs, some of which were shown successfully at Crufts. It was Hutchings who bred the Great Dane which, subsequently sold to Norman Scott, was shot by Andrew Newton on Exmoor in 1975.

Elected a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland in 1963, in 1975 he was created a Fellow of the College of Preceptors. Two years later he was appointed CBE. He remained unmarried.

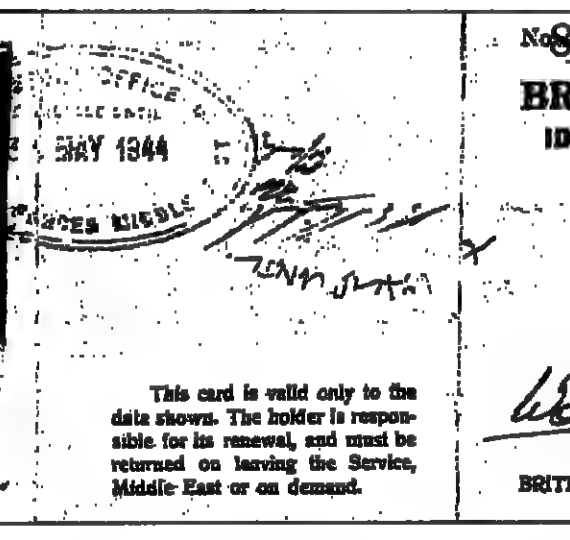
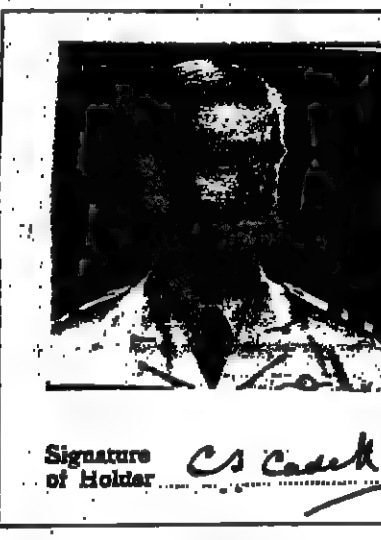


COLIN CADELL

Colin Cadell, CBE, electronic engineer, died on October 29 aged 91. He was born on August 7, 1905.

AS AN RAF officer during the Second World War, Colin Cadell revealed an expertise in the field of electronics which made him a natural choice for intelligence work. Though he often hankered after active service, he spent much of the war in the Air Ministry. In 1940 he helped to establish 80 Wing — the RAF radio countermeasures unit whose task it was to disrupt the navigation of German bombers by "bending" the radio beams along which they flew. He then moved on to set up the highly successful listening station at Chicksands Priory where a team of WAAFs intercepted enemy signals which were then fed to Bletchley Park to be decrypted.

Cadell was also closely involved with the development



of radar, facing the challenge of how to improve its efficiency in Allied hands while simultaneously devising counter-measures to make it much less useful to the enemy.

Born into a military family — his father was a colonel in

the Indian Medical Service — Colin Simon Cadell was educated at Merchiston and at Edinburgh University before being commissioned into the RAF in 1926. He decided to specialise in the then challenging new field of electronics and

gained a scholarship to the Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité in Paris.

He passed out with honours, and a signals posting might have been expected. But Cadell instead accepted an appointment as ADC to Sir

Miles Lampson (later Lord Killeare), the High Commissioner for Egypt. After two happy years in Cairo he returned to Britain in 1936 to command 45 Squadron before being sent to Staff College a year later.

During the Second World War the intense secrecy demanded of Cadell together with the round-the-clock duties expected, put him under enormous pressure. More than once he applied for active service but his skill was too valuable and each time he was refused, except when he was posted for a few months in 1943 to Cairo as Chief Signals Officer, Middle East. He was soon posted back to the Air Ministry.

From 1944 to 1945, as director of telecommunications and then as director of signals, he had a hand in almost every aspect of war in the air and his services were recognised in 1944 when he was appointed CBE. He was also appointed to the American Legion of Merit for his work in radio countermeasures.

After the end of the war Cadell returned to live with his family in Scotland where he served as AOC 66 Group throughout 1946. He was

delighted to have the opportunity to be back flying planes, but when in 1947 he was invited by his wartime boss, Air Marshal Sir Victor Tait, to join him working in the civilian sector, Cadell retired from the RAF with the rank of air commodore.

Recognising the urgent need for a reliable organisation to provide worldwide air safety services for passenger flights, they founded International Aeradio in London (IAL). Within four years Cadell, as managing director, had acquired sites and equipment, set up training schools and opened branches of the company in some thirty different countries. But from the first his aim had only been to establish IAL on a permanent footing before passing the management of it on and in 1957 it was handed over to BOAC as a highly successful subsidiary company.

Cadell went on to take up an assignment for the Astor family who wanted to modernise The Times by rebuilding Printing House Square, without missing an issue. They also hoped to streamline production but Cadell's electronic plans for this were too far ahead of their time and they were shelved for fear (subsequently shown to be well justified) of resistance from the print unions.

In 1964 Cadell retired, from then on dividing his leisure time between his garden and the bridge table. He served as a non-executive director on the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland. He also served as Vice-Lieutenant for West Lothian and was, for 27 years, a member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland. He was a staunch churchman and for some thirty years was an elder of the Church of Scotland.

Cadell is survived by his wife, Rosemary, whom he met while in Cairo, and by two sons and a daughter.

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ON THIS DAY November 20, 1850: Work on Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace was begun on September 26. The structure needed 4,000 tons of iron, 400 of glass and 600,000 cubic feet of wood. The huge glass building was completed on time for the opening of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in May 1851.

interfere to secure for it decorations which may harmonize with its graceful proportions and the flood of light which is to be poured in through its transparent walls and roof.

Looking at the general progress of the undertaking, with nearly 2,000 men at work upon it, with great stores of materials ready for use, the imagination has now little difficulty in realizing to itself, independently of the plans, by a personal inspection, what the Crystal Palace will be. The architect will trace the first idea of its long aisles and great central dome back to the splendid baths of the Romans, and especially those of Diocletian and Caracalla.

The modern engineer will point to the triumphs of skill by which a structure composed entirely of iron, wood and glass, without a brick or an inch of mortar, is to be stretched over 18 acres of ground. In watching its growth from week to week we can only regret that when the work is completed and the end attained, the visitors to Hyde Park next year will but dimly gather from the results the full expression and character of that vast directed energy and skill which, notwithstanding its novelty, gave effect to Mr Paxton's design.

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Cosy head for a cut-throat world

The next chairman will not, thank God, have to conduct another franchise round. All the existing ITV licence holders have ten licences, for which they can reapply for renewal as soon as 1998. They might in time seek some levelling-out of the different sums they have to pay to broadcast. But the conditions for such realignment are laid

All in all, there is plenty for the new chairman to do in a tough, niggling job that lacks the grandeur of the BBC chairmanship yet carries the risks of landing up in court. Let us hope that whoever gets the job will be able to preserve the commission's aura of niceness. Commercial television is, in itself, not a cosy business.

Takeaways cook up a new medium

habits. Parents claimed it set a bad example to children. But for once the ITC was on Evans' side. A spokesman said it was all part of the Evans' humour. "The ITC noted that *TPI Friday*, and its presenter in particular, had a well-established reputation for idiosyncratic and wacky humour. In this instance the drill was used to develop a long-running joke about his spending habits," said a statement. "Items such as aerosols, kitchen knives etcetera pose particular problems because they are easily accessible in the home. This is not the case with power tools."

Damon Albarn, Blur's lead singer

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Gritty realism — or too much for audiences? Jane Tennison (Helen Mirren) confronts The Street (Steven Mackintosh) in *Prime Suspect V*

Is television going soft on violence?

Programme-makers fear they are being stifled in a new era of censorship, says Maggie Brown

In the new series of *Common as Muck* to be screened by the BBC in January, one of the binnies, played by Roy Hudd, makes a bungled attempt to hang himself. It should be one of those bitter, black comic scenes which experienced producers relish and audiences watch with bated breath.

But long before the scene was shot, the question of how much to show was referred upwards to an editorial policy executive.

The episode was talked through in detail in a way it would not have been a year or two ago. It stayed in, but the camera did not show the act of putting up the electric flex, nor linger on the stool kicked away, in case it encouraged vulnerable imitators.

That is the new convention covering screen suicide: in another BBC Sunday night drama series, *Harvest Moon* (also for the new year), about Welsh cattle drovers, a man hangs himself. Again audiences will see the effect, not the way he does it.

Is this censorship — or simply a sign that the sensibilities of the audience are being considered at last? The one certainty is that screen violence and the way television can affect behaviour for the worse, remains a highly charged political issue — especially in a delicate pre-election period. Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, has called the chairmen of the BBC and ITV to a meeting on the issue early next month.

"When you get horrific crimes such as Dunblane, or the knifing of a school head, it

is inevitable that people ask questions about the effects of film, video and television," says David Glenicross, the former chief executive of the Independent Television Commission, which regulates commercial television.

He says that the tendency has been for violent but acclaimed dramas, such as Granada's *Cracker*, or *Prime Suspect*, to get round programme guidelines by not showing the actual act of violence — the knife going in — but concentrating on the effects, like the stabbed policeman inching towards the door, as his lifeblood drains away.

But the ITC, for all its formal programme code, works in a more subtle way than the BBC: it is a regulator, not a broadcaster. It is trying to influence television companies behind the scenes by quietly pointing out that the audience prefers less violence and that it is not necessary for high ratings.

According to senior programme-makers, the new caution over violence, sex and bad language is most clearly seen within the BBC. There, the increased tendency to "refer upwards" is combining with a growing culture of public accountability.

The result can be a brake on the work of more creative programme-makers. "It is sending a strong message to the talent that the BBC is not in the business of making programmes for people aged

over ten," says one senior producer bitterly. Piers Haggart, chairman of the Directors' Guild film and television committee, says: "It is sad, and a typically reactionary way of acting."

Alan Plater, the award-winning dramatist, described in a recent newspaper article his feelings of despair in dramatising novels about an

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Alan Plater, the award-winning dramatist, described in a recent newspaper article his feelings of despair in dramatising novels about an

'The BBC is now aimed at people aged less than ten'

old-style copper for the corporation. He revealed how his scripts were sent off to London, with the swear words highlighted, and returned to be rescued by the word "pillow" only by pointing out that it was good enough for Shakespeare.

The new mood also seems closely linked to the arrival of Sir Christopher Bland as a vigorous Chairman of the BBC seven months ago. His move to Broadcasting House was marked, unusually, by the publication of an open letter from Virginia Bottomley.

In it she pointedly referred to his role in safeguarding standards. "Standards of taste and decency are also an issue about which there is particular public concern; and you know of Parliament's strength of feeling about the need to maintain high standards."

Shortly afterwards the BBC's fledgling Programme Complaints Unit was given a higher profile, and the chairman demanded that programme-makers paid particular attention to the corrections and lessons handed out. Sources within the Broadcasting Standards Council, the taste and decency watchdog which covers all broadcasting (and which in the summer reported a perceived decline in screen violence), say privately that since Bland's arrival the BBC is far more prepared to admit it makes mistakes, rather than stand by programme-makers.

All of this has been given a new focus with the publication last week of the BBC's updated guidelines to producers. It includes an expanded section on violence in drama, urging particular care in six special areas, ranging from domestic and sexual violence to suicide attempts. On strong language, it says: "Programme-makers should constantly ask themselves whether it will simply alienate a large part of the audience." It is also clear that drama reconstructions of domestic violence and murder — such as the one devoted to

Sara Thornton — would be hard to make again.

Michael Chaplin, the former Head of Programmes at BBC Wales, who is now writing drama series for the BBC, says he finds nothing wrong in principle with programme-makers being asked to consider what they are doing, since they can live in an enclosed and highly privileged world. "But I would be concerned if on a whole range of artistic issues I lost substantive control."

Programme guidelines started becoming generally known to the public in the late 1970s. (Though there were always internal rules; in the 1950s a BBC radio rule reportedly said the phrase "winter draws on" was suitable for the Light Programme but too rude for the Home Service or Third Programme.)

Much of the debate in the 1980s, when the BBC first published its rules, covered TV journalism, especially the lessons to be drawn from footage of tragedy and disaster beamed in indiscriminately by satellite.

The fear now is that these rules, factual in origin, are being extended into other programmes, including fiction, as if the events of a drama were real. Now a rule banning the camera lingering on bodies, or close-ups of distressed people, might well join faked suicides as events no longer deemed suitable for audiences. This would certainly water down dramatic impact, as the cameras retreat.

But then, the boundaries of taste and decency continually shift.

Murky dealings over Fergie book

Clive Hollick, chief executive of the United News and Media Group, returns to London from Hong Kong today to confront a serious crisis at *The Express*, the group's flagship seven-day newspaper. As Fleet Street's newest media mogul who is investing millions in the revival of *The Express*, it will be his first confrontation with the murky world of Fleet Street and the quest by editors for "spoilers" to destroy the impact of a rival newspaper's scoop.

On his desk will be the report of an internal inquiry into the professional conduct of deputy editor Ian Monk, who has effectively edited *The Express* for some of the year while Editor-in-Chief, Richard Addis, has reorganised the paper into a new seven-day operation. Four other senior executives were also interviewed yesterday.

The inquiry will ask how Mr Monk came to be in possession of a photocopy of a stolen copy of Allan Starkie's inside account of the secret life of Sarah, Duchess of York, due to be serialised by the *Daily Mail*. A photocopy of the book then seems to have been offered for sale to *The Sun* by Mr Monk's wife — who was arrested at Heathrow on November 1 on suspicion of theft and receiving stolen goods.

The story of how *The Express* acquired a copy of the Starkie book has damaged its reputation at a moment in its history when Mr Addis has claimed the moral high ground by joining Andrew Marr, Editor of *The Independent*, in an effort to raise standards in Fleet Street and combat the culture of "attack journalism". Yet *The Express* now stands accused of using a purloined copy of the Starkie book in a dirty-tricks campaign to "spoil" the serialisation in the *Mail*, its main rival, destroy its impact and diminish its sales.

Winning the battle for the rights to serialise the Starkie revelations against competition from *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Daily Mirror* — *The Express* did not bid and did not therefore sign any oath of confidentiality — was a coup for Paul Dacre, Editor of the *Mail*, even though he may have suspected that the market in Fergie-mania had been saturated by the earlier revelations in the *Mirror* from "Madame Vasso".

Earlier this year there had been newspaper bids of up to £450,000 for the rights to serialise the Duchess's own story — which eventually went to *Hello* for much less — but the market had fallen after the Vasso book was published. Mr Dacre got the book for only £100,000.

When the book is on the other foot, the *Daily Mail* itself is no slouch at spoilers. So Mr Dacre knew that his rivals would be trying to spoil his scoop. So did the publisher, Michael O'Mara, who published Andrew Morton's *Diana, Her True Story*. To protect his deal with the *Daily Mail* and ensure that it could not be seen by Mr Dacre's rivals, Mr O'Mara did not even print the book until the serialisation began.

He seems to have reckoned without the sleuthing skills of Fleet Street. Within days a messenger arrived at Cox and Wyman in Reading, one of Britain's leading printers, bearing ostensible letters from Mr O'Mara and Mr Starkie asking for two copies of the

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur



proofs. The letters were forged by Cox and Wyman were not even the printers of the book. The messenger was sent packing.

Meanwhile there were several attempts to obtain copies of the book from the Finnish printers. One caller even pretended he was Mr O'Mara. A Finnish woman was arrested as she offered to sell a copy of the book to a British tabloid.

Security in Finland was watertight but not in Pennsylvania, where the American edition was being prepared. A set of proofs leaked from the plant and arrived in the offices of *The Star*, America's mass-market weekly tabloid. Soon afterwards the book was touted in Britain.

On Thursday October 31 and especially Friday November 1, the day before the *Mail*'s serialisation was due to start, several illicit copies of the book were being hawked round Fleet Street. A copy of the book was faxed to Mr

row, and saying she would be met by the *News of the World*. Mr O'Mara rang the police who went along, and arrested Anita Monk.

On Saturday, when the *Daily Mail* began its serialisation, the *Express* spoiler, mainly written by Ross Benson, was spread across three pages. As the *Mail* boasted across the top of its front page, "Fergie: The Book She Tried To Ban". The *Express* replied with a Fergie story asking "Will She Lose Her Children?" It ran Benson's story at length and described Fergie's anguish over Starkie's "sordid book". The story rated a single column on the front of *The Sun*. Ian Monk, who moved to *The Express* with Mr Addis from the *Daily Mail* and who has a reputation as a hard-driving news man, is now helping the *Express* inquiry. There have been reports, denied by Mr Addis and Mr Monk, that he has been asked to resign with a pay-off.

Yesterday, *Express* staff were rallying to his support. More than a hundred signed a petition of confidence in his journalistic ability. He said: "I am confident that any inquiry will confirm that I have done nothing which conflicts with the best journalistic interests of the *Express*."

Among the questions that the inquiry will ask are how and why a copy of the purloined book was being offered to *The Sun* at Heathrow and whether any money collected from *The Sun* was to be paid to *The Express*. It will also need to ask if Mr Monk acted with or without authorisation from Mr Addis and if there was any authorised attempt to share the spoiler with any other newspaper to spike the *Daily Mail*.

Several other questions are worth asking. One is whether newspaper spoilers ever achieve their aim. On the Saturday that the *Mail* began its serialisation, despite the efforts of *The Express* and *The Sun*, it achieved the highest sale in its history of 2.8 million. "Spoilers don't spoil," says Mr O'Mara. "I've never known a spoiler that spoils. It's all about editors' egos. They feel they have been cuckolded if a rival gets a scoop."

One question for Lord Hollick is whether *The Express*, which lives or dies by some of the age-old practices in newspaper wars, is wise to claim a place on the moral high ground of journalism.



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Lawyers blame the press for prejudicing fair trials

A law banning payments to witnesses will cause even more problems. Richard Stott reports



The Thorpe and West trials were a cause for concern

Peter Bessell is a long dead and forgotten, discredited and duplicitous former Liberal MP who made you involuntarily clutch your wallet as soon as he entered a room.

His greatest claim to fame was as one of the chief prosecution witnesses in the trial of Jeremy Thorpe for conspiracy to murder back in the 1970s. His reputation — such as it was — was destroyed at the trial because among other things it was revealed that *The Sunday Telegraph* had not only agreed to pay him for his story but to hang him another £25,000 if Thorpe was convicted.

Now this is about as daff as you can get as well as being pretty close to contempt of court. But the whole thing has been dragged up again nearly 20 years later because Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is considering introducing legislation to ban payments to witnesses by newspapers in criminal trials.

He has been stirred to act because of the number of witnesses in the Rosemary West case who had been paid by newspapers, magazines,

television and book companies. On the face of it, the Lord Chancellor's concern seems justified. How can a jury be sure that witnesses are not embroidering the truth to line their own pockets? This must be a worry that goes right to the heart of a fair trial.

But does it? The Lord Chancellor's evidence to support this assertion is very thin gruel. He produces four big cases: Thorpe, Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, Peter Sutcliffe and West. Yet Thorpe is the only case in 30 years where there is any suggestion that witness payment had any effect on the jury. Even this example must be taken together with the increasingly obvious fact as the trial proceeded that Bessell was a very tricky customer indeed.

In the Moors murder case the Attorney-General specifically decided that payment to

the chief prosecution witness had not affected the outcome of the trial. In Sutcliffe the issue never arose: the row there was about the payments to relatives and friends, not covered by the

Press Complaints Commission code of conduct: it was not about payments to witnesses. The Court of Appeal decided in the West case that there was insufficient evidence and the contracts to

pay did not render the convictions unsafe.

This should be enough to ensure that the Mackay plan does not hatch. With that kind of history it can hardly be the most pressing piece of legislation. But the antecedence is as nothing compared with the problems created by a non-payment law.

If witnesses really are tempted to change or embellish their stories for cash before the case, imagine the position if several witnesses are vying for top dollar after the case. Are they not more likely to ginger up their memories a bit in the witness box if they know they have to compete with others at the end of the trial? Or are we to ban payment completely? If so, will that include books? A number of bestsellers would bite the dust if that were the case: accounts by rape victims and

the unjustly accused who are cleared will all be banned. It is clearly absurd.

The puzzling thing about all this is why the Lord Chancellor is bothering. The cases he dredges up are few and far between and the evidence is unconvincing.

It could be that lawyers are discovering that their best chance with "difficult" cases is to find a way of blaming the press for prejudicing a fair trial and the legal establishment is having problems combating it.

This tactic is being used more often, from the West case to the Geoff Knights assault trial, which was abandoned because, according to the trial judge, of "outrageous, unfair and oppressive" reporting. The only trouble there was that the judge's hysterical view was not shared by the appeal court in subsequent contempt of court actions against newspapers. These were all cleared, with the Attorney-General having to fork out a fortune in legal costs.

Mr Knights was, of course, free to tell his story to any newspaper that wanted to buy it. Lord Mackay will be relieved to know nobody did.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1996

Taxman acted illegally over VAT refunds

By Jason Nisse

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE was yesterday told by a High Court judge that it has been acting illegally in a landmark ruling that could lead to claims for overpaid value-added tax costing the Treasury as much as £5 billion.

Mr Justice Keene said the Customs had, since July 18, unlawfully deferred paying out on legitimate claims for backdated VAT beyond a three-year limit.

He instructed Customs to make payments immediately, totalling £35 million, in eight test cases involving groups as diverse as GUS, the home shopping group, the Federation of Opticians and Dispensing Opticians and the Mercers Company of the City of London. Other similar claims of as much as £100 million are in the pipeline.

Tax experts said that the ruling could force a rethink of proposals, to be included in the Finance Bill which accompanies the Budget, to introduce a three-year limit for repayments of VAT while allowing Customs to go back six years.



Hamilton warning

The law is planned to be retrospective, dating back to July 18 when it was announced by Sir Kenneth Smith, then Headmaster of Customs, that the then Paymaster General, it will be debated as part of the Finance Bill and should become law in the new year.

However, Mario Monti, the European Commissioner for Competition, has indicated he will investigate the law if it comes in, as it is widely believed to breach the European Commission's Sixth Directive.

£100 million. These included claims relating to spectacles, interest-free credit, company cars and money-off vouchers for consumer goods, some of which go as far back as the introduction of VAT in 1973.

Estimates of the cost of all these claims have been put as high as £25 billion, although most experts believe the total is no more than £5 billion.

Penny Hamilton, a senior tax partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants,

said that taxpayers will fight the introduction of the three years rule, and are prepared to take it to the European Court of Justice if necessary. "This is the first line drawn in the sand. Customs should be prepared for a very long campaign."

Most European countries have time limits on back claims for VAT. But the main objection to this law is the different limits applied to overpayments and underpayments.

Peter Jenkins, national VAT partner at Ernst & Young, the accountants, said: "Will Customs see how ridiculous this is getting and back down on the mismanagement?"

VAT experts have also argued that the application of the law will cause bad feeling between Customs and business people, who Customs heavily rely upon to collect VAT.

Valerie Strachan, chairman of the Commission of Customs & Excise, recently said she wanted to forge a partnership between the business community and Customs over the collection of VAT. Ms Hamilton at Coopers said: "If the taxpayer does not perceive tax collection as fair, this could break that relationship."

Last night Customs & Excise said that all the money repaid under the ruling would be reclaimed as soon as the law came into force. "We are not about to hand big repayments to large corporations who often take the money as windfall profits and do not pass it on to the consumer," said a spokesman.

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Sir Gerald Whent, Vodafone's chief executive, said the acquisition was defensive

Vodafone pockets Peoples Phone

By Eric Rosoff

VODAFONE, the largest mobile phone company, agreed yesterday to buy Peoples Phone for £77 million in a move to keep the service provider from unfriendly hands.

Sir Gerald Whent, Vodafone's chief executive, said the acquisition was defensive because more than three-quarters of Peoples Phone's 400,000 customers are Vodafone users. "It was more valuable to us than to anyone else," he said.

The purchase price, in relative terms, is lower than the price paid by Vodafone for Talkland and far less than the £200 million flotation value placed on Peoples by its directors late last year. The flotation was cancelled in January after market share forecasts fell below internal forecasts.

Peoples has 181 high street shops, compared with Talkland's 60. Vodafone said the two chains probably will not be merged because they cater for different customers. Peoples targets the consumer market, while Talkland focuses on higher-margin business users.

The acquisition came as Vodafone reported overseas mobile-phone operations, accounting for about one-sixth of turnover, in the black for the first time with £3 million operating profit in the half-year to the end of September, compared with an £18 million loss. This turnaround and continued strong growth in the domestic market helped to boost pre-tax profits by 21 per cent, to £252 million, on turnover of £772 million, up 16 per cent. The interim dividend, paid on February 12, rises 20 per cent to 2.36p.

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Yield	8.43%	(8.47%)

3-MONTH INTERBANK		
3-month interbank	8.1%	(8.1%)
Life long gilt	110.4	(110.4)
Future (Dec)	110.4	(110.4)

STERLING		
New York	1.8770	(1.8710)
London	1.8783	(1.8718)
DM	2.5176	(2.5100)
FF	5.5191	(5.4944)
Sfr	2.1244	(2.1210)
Yen	186.38	(186.23)
£ index	92.3	(92.0)

DOLLAR		
London	1.2040	(1.2012)
DM	6.0840	(6.0752)
Sfr	1.2700	(1.2683)
Yen	111.25	(111.23)
£ index	98.1	(98.1)

TOKYO CLOSING		
Tokyo close Yen	111.88	

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	623.26	(623.65)

GOLD		
London close	8578.45	(8578.25)
* denotes midday trading price		

London shares surge on bid talk

London Electricity shares surged 28p to 665p because Ennery, the New Orleans utility was tipped to launch a bid. Ennery operates around the world and in several American states. Last night it refused to comment on market rumour. The company has previously denied a move on Yorkshire but has admitted talking to UK regional companies. Pennington 29

Hyde Park Hotel sold for record

By Alasdair Murray

GRANADA yesterday began its great hotel sell-off with the disposal of the prestigious Hyde Park Hotel in London for the equivalent of £465,000 a room - the most expensive price ever paid for a hotel business in London.

The hotel is being bought by Mandarin Oriental International, the Hong Kong-based hotel group controlled by Jardine Matheson, for a total of £86 million.

Over the next two months, Granada is expected to dispose of a further 16 hotels acquired as part of the exclusive chain following the £3.9 billion takeover of Forte at the beginning of the year.

The City expects Granada to raise between £800 million and £900 million from the disposals.

Mandarin is paying cash for the hotel, which had a book value of £71 million. It intends to rename the premises the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park and will need to invest substantial sums in upgrading back-of-house facilities to enhance its

value. Mandarin has been keen to return to the London market since it lost its contract to manage the Ritz after Trafalgar House, now owned by Kvaerner, sold the company to the Barclay Brothers for £75 million in October 1995.

The Hyde Park has a total of 185 rooms, as well as conference and banqueting facilities. It is also the site of the famous Marco Pierre White restaurant. Last year it made an operating profit of £4.7 million on a turnover of £15.3 million.

The Hyde Park was built in 1892 as a gentlemen's club but was converted to a hotel around the turn of the century. Prince Jefri of Brunei is believed to lead the hunt for the Granada-owned George V in Paris, while Cheltenham, the property group, is favourite to take control of the Westbury in Conduit Street, London and its sister hotel in New York.

Granada will also unveil its full-year results today with analysts predicting a £100 million rise in profits to about £460 million. Shares in the company closed down 2 1/2 p to 892 1/2 p.

Good causes lose out on £110m as lottery sales slip

By Jon Ashworth

TUMBLING lottery sales cost good causes more than £110 million this year, according to the latest financial snapshot from Camelot, the lottery operator. Sales of Instant fell to £419 million in the six months to September 14, compared with £571 million in the same period last year.

Online ticket sales showed a slight increase, rising to £1.67 billion, but overall sales slipped from £2.5 billion to just under £2.1 billion. Camelot said that the decline in sales of Instant was in line with experience overseas.

The first midweek National Lottery draw will take place on February 5. Camelot said the move could boost online lottery ticket sales by up to 20 per cent, although there are concerns that Instant could suffer a further decline.

Instant sales have flattened out at £17 million a week. Sales for the weekly draw have settled at £69 million. Lucky Dip, in which numbers are computer-selected at random, now accounts for 12 per cent of sales. Camelot made £20.8 million in profits after tax during the six

months, down from £23.6 million. Overall net profits since launch have reached £78.1 million.

A further £10 million in dividends has been paid to Camelot's shareholders, including GTC, the controversial American lottery operator. Camelot has put £5 million into a charitable foundation. Separately, it has given more than £157 million to charity in the past two years, making it one of the UK's biggest corporate donors.

Tim Holley, Camelot's chief executive, said that 30 million



Holley: 30 million players

people a week were now playing the lottery on a regular basis. The lottery has proved a boon to independent shopkeepers, earning them about £5,000 a year in commission, along with an increase in trade. Independents are responsible for about half of all lottery sales.

Mr Holley said Camelot's network of terminals should be fully in place by the end of the year. Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, has criticised Camelot for falling behind on its installation deadlines.

Peter Murphy, Camelot's finance director, said the lottery licence allowed for some slippage. Camelot faces penalties of £1 million for every 100 terminals missed, if it misses all its targets in any one financial year.

Camelot has set up an advisory company, Camelot International Services, to advise on lotteries overseas. The venture is at an early stage.

The lottery has raised £2.5 billion for good causes, and £1.2 billion in tax, since its debut in November 1994.

Pennington, page 29

BankAmerica offers staff share options

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BANKAMERICA Corporation is to offer share options to 35,000 full-time and part-time employees worldwide. The move by Bank of America, one of America's largest banks, puts pressure on other large companies to put more shares in the hands of their workers.

The scheme may also go some way to alleviating the criticism of soaring pay for top executives who have

benefited from handsome share option schemes during the recent rise in stock markets, raising accusations that bosses have benefited at the expense of their workforces. Employees of Bank of America, from tellers up to senior executives, will be allowed to purchase between 50 and 90 shares in BankAmerica Corporation, the bank's holding company, every six months over the next three years.

BankAmerica shares rose 2 1/2 p to 98 1/2 p after the announcement in San Francisco by David Coulter, chairman and chief executive of the bank. The options must be exercised after three years but before five at a price of 95 1/2 p.

Mr Coulter said: "Beginning today, tellers, teleservice representatives, loan officers, indeed most of our employees, have a greater stake in the future of our company." The bank employs 92,700 worldwide and £500 Bank of America employees in Britain will be among the beneficiaries.

Mr Coulter added: "This will in-

crease our shareholder value by motivating our workforce to think and act like owners." He said it would focus attention on the company's share price as the key measure of Bank of America's performance.

Many banks have offered generous share option packages to senior executives, and a few have offered occasional one-off option plans to employees. The move is part of an attempt to boost the bank's performance in the competitive US financial services market.

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Legislation outlined in Green Paper dismissed as unnecessary

Business cool on plans to curb strikes

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS LEADERS gave a cool response yesterday to the Government's new proposals aimed at curbing strikes, arguing that employee relations in Britain are largely satisfactory and any further legislative moves are unnecessary.

Industry's view is that the new measures outlined in the Government's Green Paper on industrial relations are primarily an electoral move rather than any serious suggestions for immediate legislation. Some suggest they will worsen rather than improve UK employee relations.

The main reform proposed in *Industrial Action and the Trade Unions* is that strikes and industrial action judged by the courts to be "excessive or disproportionate" would lose their immunity from civil action, opening the way for unions to be sued by employers, businesses or individuals affected by the action.

CBI leaders said that initial soundings among member companies "suggest there is doubt about whether they are workable". The key terms "excessive" and "disproportionate" would need to be properly defined, it said.

Company directors said the Green Paper's main measure was "impracticable". Ruth Lea, policy head at the Institute of Directors, which will set out its own pre-election business manifesto today, said: "We take the view that this will simply be a field day for lawyers. The balance of legislation is about right now."

Britain's managers said the Government was "over-reacting" to strikes in the Post Office and London Underground. Roger Young, Institute of Management directors general said: "Managers believe this legislation will only serve to exacerbate industrial disputes, not help to find solutions."

David Yeandle, head of employment affairs at the Engineering Employers Federation, said that the proposal on proportionality was "fraught with difficulty over definition", and would lead to uncertainty among employers.

In the Commons, the Prime Minister said that, in the private sector, strikes were now at 4 per cent of their level in 1979, and added: "I believe in the public sector people deserve the same protection against strikes that they now increasingly have elsewhere."

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, launched the Green Paper with an attack on the "virus of crude strike action" last summer. But he added: "We are not trying to pick a fight with the unions. What we are trying to do is prevent the unions picking a fight with the public."

BOC confident of revival in healthcare

By PAUL DURMAN

BOC GROUP, the industrial gases company, yesterday mounted a strong defence of its healthcare business, often criticised and seen as a disposal candidate by the City.

Danny Rosenkranz, who became BOC's chief executive ten months ago, said he did not intend to sell Ohmeda, whose profits fell again last year to £53.1 million from £59.8 million. He split out a series of new products, including anaesthetic drugs, that BOC believes will revive Ohmeda's fortunes.

The upbeat message on healthcare, combined with full-year profits at the top end of forecasts, prompted a 44p rise in BOC's share price to 880p. The shares had fallen heavily since July.

BOC's pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £444.9 million, on sales that rose 7 per cent to just over £4 billion. The main gases business increased operating profits 9 per cent to £408.3 million, in spite of the strong pound cutting into the fourth quarter results. With another strong performance from Edwards, the vacuum pump business, total operating profits reached £539.4 million (£496.4 million).

Ohmeda has been struggling to replace lost profits from Forane, its off-patent anaesthetic gas that has suffered severe price falls in the face of generic competition. Forane made £20 million last year, compared with £123 million four years ago.

In gases, BOC achieved "well above-average growth" in the Americas and the South Pacific. It also made good improvements in Europe, South-east Africa and the North Pacific. BOC is investing heavily in new on-site gas plants for big customers. This accounts for much of the group's £708 million of capital spending last year. In the US, where BOC has lagged its competitors on on-site plants, its investment will more than double the capacity from such plants to about 17,000 tonnes per day.

The vacuum technology and distribution services division, including Edwards, improved profits 28 per cent to £90.3 million. Edwards, whose pumps are used in making computer chips, has been hit by slowdown in the semiconductor industry. Although the impact is hard to gauge, Mr Rosenkranz said Edwards's profits will fall this year.

BOC said it will pay a dividend of 29p a share for the year to next September, a 7.4 per cent rise. The first instalment of 14.5p will be paid on February 3.



Tony Isaac, BOC finance director, and Danny Rosenkranz saw profits rise 11 per cent

Labour to instigate new type of pension

By OUR CITY STAFF

A LABOUR government would create a new type of pension scheme aimed at providing a retirement income higher than a typical personal pension, a conference will be told today.

John Denham, the Shadow Pensions Minister, said Labour's proposal "will bring security in retirement within the reach of many who are denied it today".

Mr Denham and Harriet Harman, the Shadow Secretary for Social Security, will address a one-day pensions conference in London today.

Opposition water plan

LABOUR yesterday stepped up its attack on the water industry, publishing targets it aims to enforce if the party forms the next government. Condemning water companies for "repeatedly polluting the environment... making record profits on the back of falling investment and... failing to look after the interests of local people", Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, outlined tougher controls for water companies. They include setting leakage targets; making water companies offer free efficiency audits for households; tougher fines for pollution; and an audit of the country's water mains and sewers.

Rothschild appointment

NM ROTHSCHILD & Sons, the investment bank, has been appointed by the Department for Education and Employment to advise on the possible sale of part of the £2 billion student loan portfolio. The portfolio, which consists of some 1.3 million individual loan accounts administered by the Student Loans Company, could be securitised by bundling up a series of different loans into a package. Rothschilds said that it might follow the well-established American market practice where student loans are sold to investors as Sallie Mae securities.

Setback for Whitecroft

WHITECROFT, the building and lighting business, suffered a 21 per cent fall in pre-tax profits from £3.4 million to £2.7 million in the six months to September 30. The company said that trading conditions had been difficult, although it was now confident of an improvement. Earnings dropped to 4.4p from 6p per share. The interim dividend, due to be paid on January 27, is held at 1.75p. Sales of £74 million, compared with £68.8 million. Operating profits in the specialist materials division were adversely affected by a fire at one of the plants.

Bett Brothers slips

BETT BROTHERS, the housebuilding and property group based in Scotland, saw tight margins in new homes contribute to a decline in pre-tax profits to £5.02 million from £5.56 million in the year to August 31 in spite of a 14 per cent rise in sales to £38.3 million. The company said it is confident that the housing recovery being felt in parts of England would soon work its way up to Scotland. A tax rebate allowed earnings to grow from 28.8p per share to 33.3p. A final dividend of 3.85p, due January 13, leaves a year total of 5.6p, up from 5.4p.

Sinclair Montrose deal

SINCLAIR-Montrose Healthcare, the medical services group, has bought Personnel Operations, a bureau supplying operating theatre assistants, for £1.4 million. Sinclair Montrose, which supplies temporary nursing staff, said it intends to capitalise from cross-selling between the two markets, and expects to make cost savings. It is paying £800,000 in cash, providing a further £400,000 in shares and £400,000 in loan notes. Its shares, placed on the Alternative Investment Market in June at 140p, were unchanged yesterday at 178p.

Virgin Net launched

INTERNATIONAL CableTel, the American-controlled cable company, and Virgin Communications, part of Richard Branson's Virgin Group, yesterday launched Virgin Net, an Internet service provider they said was designed for easy use by consumers. The service will cost £10 a month and will provide access to 3,000 web pages selected by Virgin, as well as the World Wide Web. Virgin Net will dispense with the "tricky graphics" that eat up memory and slow down searches. Mr Branson expects to have 20,000 subscribers by the year-end.

Purchase for Azlan

AZLAN, the distributor of network computing products and services, has agreed to buy Akam International, computer consultancy in The Netherlands, for up to £29.6 million. It is funding the acquisition with a 3-for-10 rights issue to raise £48.5 million, with the balance of the proceeds being used to reduce the company's £12.2 million of borrowings. Azlan lifted pre-tax profits to £6 million from £4 million in the six months to October 4. Earnings were 15p a share (13.6p) and an interim dividend of 1.3p (1.2p) is due on January 31.

Mansfield toasts 11% rise

MANSFIELD BREWERY achieved an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £10.5 million in the half year to September 28, helped by a 17.5 per cent profit increase in the managed house division. The brewery division's share of the regional beer market grew to 8.4 per cent. Sir David White, chairman, said the overall outlook remains positive and the group is considering acquisition opportunities. The interim dividend was raised 23.5 per cent to 2.1p a share, payable on December 20 from earnings of 11.6p a share, up 12.2 per cent.

Call for safeguard over pre-paid burials

By A CORRESPONDENT

GRIEVING families could be left to meet burial costs of relatives who have pre-paid for their own funerals, the National Consumer Council says. The council is urging the Government to introduce legislation to protect often elderly and sick people who hope to carry the financial burden.

Cowboy operators are able to exploit legal loopholes, which mean they are exempt from normal rules governing insurance and financial services. They can also indulge in high-pressure marketing techniques, such as canvassing nursing homes to drum up new business, the watchdog said.

It is estimated there have been 200,000 pre-paid funerals sold over the past decade, costing more than £1,000 each and accounting for 2 per cent of the burial market. This figure is expected to quadruple over the next few years, following a similar pattern in America where pre-paid funerals account for 15 per cent of burials.

Past cases have seen companies simply disappear overnight, leaving people with no burial cover and forcing reputable firms to step in.

Two voluntary codes of practice govern the industry and the Department of Trade and Industry is consulting on the issue after growing concern over regulation.

David Haich, the Consumer Council chairman, said: "People who buy pre-paid funerals believe they can help lift the burden and worry of these arrangements from their families."

"There must be strong regulation to ensure that consumers get the service they have paid for and their families are not hassled for any extra financial costs. They will be suffering enough."

Labour's proposal, called a "stakeholder pension", would be aimed at people who do not have the opportunity to join an occupational pension scheme and whose only choice is currently between Serps or taking out a personal pension.

The stakeholder pension would operate alongside the basic state pension. It is based on the investment of contributions into collective schemes. Because they are collective — multi-employer and multi-member — they will have low overheads, says Labour.

Visitors and profits soar at Euro Disney

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A RECORD 11.7 million people visited Euro Disneyland, in France, last year: an increase of one million, helping to lift profits at Euro Disney, operator of the theme park, 77 per cent to Fr302 million in the year to September 30.

Philippe Bourguignon, chairman and chief executive of Euro Disney, yesterday said: "We are proud of what has been accomplished in a difficult economic environment, particularly for the tourism industry."

However, M Bourguignon added: "Persistent weakness in the economy, constant pressure on our prices and the

strong increase in financial charges constitute several challenges for the future, particularly in 1997."

Hotel occupancy rates rose from 68 per cent to 72 per cent, and theme park and resort revenues rose 9 per cent to nearly Fr5 billion as a slight increase in guest spending on food and merchandise offset reduced park entry prices in April.

This formal notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of and has been approved by The London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange") pursuant to Section 154(1)(a) of the Financial Services Act 1986. This formal notice should be read in conjunction with the prospectus dated 19 November 1996 ("the Prospectus") which alone contains full details of TR European Growth Trust PLC and the securities being offered.

Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the C Shares, the new TREG ordinary shares and the TREG warrants to be admitted to the Official List.

In applying for the C Shares you will be treated as applying on the basis of the Prospectus and in particular the terms and conditions of the Offer for Subscription set out in that document. These together govern your rights and obligations. Words and expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meaning in this formal notice.

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AVAILABILITY OF PROSPECTUS

If you require advice, you should consult your stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or other professional adviser authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. Copies of the Prospectus are available (for collection only during normal business hours) from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP on the two business days following the date of publication of the Prospectus and may also be obtained during normal business hours for collection until 12 December, 1996 from the registered office of the Company at 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA and from the following:

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9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL

Hoare Govett Corporate Finance Limited
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London EC2M 7LE

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55 Old Broad Street,
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To order a copy of the mini prospectus and application form telephone Henderson Investors free of charge on 0800 557 777.

20 November 1996

Football yobs worry fewer fans than 'rip-off' charges

By JASON NISSE

SPIRALLING admission costs, frequent changes of kit and overpriced catering are more of a deterrent to football supporters than hooliganism, a survey by Mintel, the consumer research group, found.

A third of supporters surveyed felt they were being "ripped off" by their clubs, while only 16 per cent felt that violence at matches was a problem.

Ticket prices at Premiership games have soared in recent years, despite a growth in the game's popularity which has pushed up attendances and TV revenues. The price of a season

ticket at some London clubs is more than £800. Some clubs are wondering whether they may have to cut admission prices when games are televised on a pay-per-view basis.

Clubs now have up to three team kits and change each of them every two years. Supporters who buy replica kits have to pay up to £35 for each shirt alone, to keep up with the latest strip. In the past three years Manchester United has had two red kits, a white, a grey, a black and a yellow and green kit. Food is also becoming more expensive at grounds. During the Euro 96 championships in the summer Wembley was charging £1 for a Mars Bar that retails in shops for 45p.

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	2.20	Swiss Sfr	2.04
Austria S	13.76	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Belgium Fr	54.84	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Canada Cdn	2.94	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Denmark Kr	10.66	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Finland Mk	8.13	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
France F	6.55	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Germany DM	4.72	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Greece Dr	13.54	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Hong Kong Hk	7.75	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Ireland Ir	1.08	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Italy Lit	5.88	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Japan Yen	200.70	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Netherlands Gld	0.63	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Norway Kr	2.48	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Portugal Esc	11.12	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
S Africa Rd	26.50	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Spain Ptas	6.33	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Sweden Kr	27.50	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Switzerland Sfr	11.66	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Taiwan NT	2.36	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
Turkey Liras	1.70	Switzerland Sfr	17.14
USA \$	1.70	Switzerland Sfr	17.14

Notes for small denomination notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Interest rates apply to deposits only. Rates are as of 11.00pm yesterday.

السؤال الأول

□ One rule for the State, another for taxpayers □ Where now for the National Lottery? □ Another US power buyer lurks

Fair treatment, and VAT's that

IN July 1974 an Epping housewife cut out a money-saving voucher on a washing powder packet and took it to her local branch of Fine Fare to claim a discount. From such small beginnings do mighty events grow. As she was deemed to have paid the full price, a new-fangled tax called VAT was levied on the whole transaction and this VAT was passed to Customs & Excise by the supermarket.

More than 20 years later the courts found that the money-off voucher should not have attracted VAT, in a case brought by the manufacturer of the washing powder claiming back two decades-worth of overpaid tax. Concerned that this and other claims were about the bankrupt Treasury, the then Paymaster General, David Heathcoat-Amory, stood up in Parliament on July 18 and told a mixed bunch including Unilever, Great Universal Stores and the Royal Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists that they would only get three years' repayment of overpaid VAT, even though Customs could go after under-taxed VAT-payers for six years' payments.

The problem was that Mr Heathcoat-Amory said this time limit would be brought in retrospectively in the Budget. Since then the rule has been applied as if it is law, which it

certainly is not. Customs claims this makes sense, as all they would be doing is making repayments only to claim them back. The courts yesterday decided that Customs was acting illegally. Give these people their money back and then see whether the rule becomes law.

Barring a last-minute change of heart, the cut-off rule will be in the Budget. It will be debated in the Commons next month and at committee stage in January. Should it survive, the rule will be applied to the European Commission's stage in January. VAT rules. And if it passes that test, it will be challenged at the European Court.

Pass on, for a moment, whether the European courts have any right to strike out tax-raising legislation duly passed by national Parliament. The whole argument is pointless. No one in their right mind thinks some massive company like Unilever should get a multi-million-pound VAT refund just because it has kept records back to the year dot. Nor does anyone expect the manufacturer, duly reimbursed, to pass on the

benefit to the consumer. Time limits on VAT repayments make sense, and almost all other EC states have them.

But the Government has a duty to act fairly. It cannot apply one rule to the state and another to the taxpayer. And unless it changes that four to five-year cycle of company visits by VAT inspectors, it cannot bring in a unilateral three-year rule. The solution is clearly to bring in a six-year time limit for both repayments and claims. The new Paymaster General, David Willetts, could win a few friends by such a move. Heaven knows, he needs them.

Have a bet on overseas expansion

THE National Lottery — those of us who have loathed it since the outset two years ago must at last admit — has become a national institution. Like the Queen Mother and the Grand National, the lottery is probably now beyond rational criticism, therefore, whatever private misgivings some may still hold



In City terms, the lottery can now be regarded as a utility.

Utilities can be defined as dull businesses with static revenues where the main concern of management is what can go wrong in future. The lottery's revenues are static enough. Headlines turnover in the first half of the financial year may be down, but this is a false comparison with the high but unsustainable initial sales of Instant scratchcards in the previous summer. The company's own projections say this dip will be made up by the boost from having a twice-weekly online draw from February. If so, revenues can be expected to run at somewhere approaching £5 billion a year. But it is not clear

how they can be raised further. As to what can go wrong, there are three main possibilities. The computers could foul up, so bringing the institution into public disrepute. Unlikely — they have not failed to any significant extent yet. The public could lose interest — again unlikely; revenues have remained remarkably unchanged week on week, at least from the online draw, and any dips tend to be self-correcting once a rollover week raises the jackpot. The rules could be changed to allow bets on the lottery numbers at the bookies, so-called side-betting, but the Government has so far shown no inclination to adjust the odds in favour of other sectors of the gaming industry.

Further expansion has to be overseas. Camelot runs the most efficient such operation in the world — just — in terms of the 43 per cent of total take going to Government and good causes. There is scope for the company to step in and run less efficient lotteries, especially those now state-administered. It is a depressing thought that the country that once led the world

in shipbuilding and engineering now has pre-eminence in the running of national sweepstakes, but there it is.

Waiting for Lang's sign

SO MUCH for the theory that sterling's four-year high against the dollar would discourage yet more Americans from buying into our electricity industry. The CalEnergy bid for Northern Electric will now cost the company 4 per cent more than when it was first launched because of the dollar's depreciation, which may explain why the expected higher offer has yet to materialise. The Americans are more likely waiting to see whether they will be thrown to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But yesterday yet another potential US buyer emerged, for London Electricity.

The indications are that Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, will now choose to rule simultaneously on both Northern and the second actual bid in the sector, for East Midlands.

Their respective share prices, at least, suggest both will be referred. It is doubtful whether the pace of events will allow him to take in a ruling on London as well, if needed. Something called Entergy of New Orleans is supposed to be in talks with the board of London. The Americans, who have denied an earlier reported interest in Yorkshire, another of the three independents as yet unbud for, have not denied the latest story. London has nothing to say either. The assumption must be that they are indeed talking. London shares rose by 28½p to 665p yesterday, against a reported bid price of £7.

This all has an eerie ring of familiarity about it. CalEnergy was originally supposed to be talking around the £7 mark with Northern. Dominion of Virginia, bidding for East Midlands, broke cover after the Americans apparently tired of the lack of progress in private talks, then reaching an agreed deal. But this led to some burnt fingers, because Dominion had said it would not pay much more than 608p, which encouraged some investors to sell, and then came in at 670p. The City Takeover Panel has been heavily criticised as a result. The Panel must ensure there is no repetition of this, by asking the Americans to clarify their intentions forthwith.

Upbeat EMI strikes a chord in City

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

EMI GROUP sought to dispel some of the gloom in the record industry as the demerged music company unveiled a 9.4 per cent rise in half-year profits to £125 million before tax and exceptional items yesterday.

Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, said much of the negative comment about the industry, which followed a series of poor results from other international companies, had been overstated.

He added that worldwide growth in record sales, ignoring currency fluctuations, had been about 5.5 per cent this year and EMI expected growth of between 5 and 8 per cent in the medium term.

EMI's shares rose 23½p to £12.94½ as the City warmed to its upbeat message.

The music division increased operating profits by 6 per cent to £132 million on flat sales of £1.09 billion. Seven albums sold more than one million copies, with George Michael's *Older*, the top selling album, selling four million.

The US continued to prove the most difficult market, with profits at £7.8 million, compared with £8 million, but EMI said the retailing problems that had hit sales were being resolved. In contrast, the company enjoyed good

growth in the UK, Japan, South-East Asia and Latin America. The company is also establishing new operations in China and Indonesia.

EMI is pinning it hopes in the important pre-Christmas period on new releases from Spice Girls, the artist formerly known as Prince and the third Beatles' anthology. The company conceded that its third-quarter release schedule is weaker than last year although it believes the fourth quarter, which will see releases from Blur, Supergrass, Simple Minds, and Robbie Williams, should compensate.

EMI's music publishing division increased profits by just over 10 per cent and now contributes about 25 per cent of music division profits. HMV, the music retail business, incurred an operating loss of £11 million on increased sales of £360 million, a rise of 17 per cent. Dillons, the bookstore, lifted sales by 7.3 per cent and the company said it should make a small profit over the full year. EMI added it was installing an improved accounting system for the bookstore chain.

The dividend rises by 13 per cent to 8p, payable on March 7, 1997.

Temps, page 30

De La Rue slips at half time

By OLIVER AUGUST

DE LA RUE, the printer of banknotes, saw pre-tax profit slide further from £69 million to £60 million in the six months to September 30.

Purchasing prices for banknotes are under continuing pressure as De La Rue's foreign competitors step up their efforts to attack its position as market leader.

Jeremy Marshall, the chief executive, said: "As previously stated, trading conditions were extremely tough at the start of the year. The half-year's profits reflect this. As the year progresses, however, there are signs that banknote pricing is stabilising."

He said results for the second half would depend on new orders over the next four months, while the cash systems division had seen the benefits of a reorganisation last year and from new products coming to the market.

Earnings per share were 19.7p (23.1p) and the interim dividend is 7.5p (7.25p).

Temps, page 30

Shares fall at Country Casuals

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COUNTRY CASUALS shares lost more than a third of their value yesterday after the women's clothing company gave warning of a "significant deterioration in group trading" and said it would not pay a final dividend.

It said pre-tax profits for the year to January 25 would be "materially below" analysts' forecasts, which were in the £2.1 million to £2.4 million range, but not less than £1 million. Its shares plunged 36p to 64p, a record low.

The worst performer within the group has been Lerose Manufacturing, which is reporting monthly losses. Lerose, which has factories in Birmingham and Glasgow, employs about 400 people and supplies many high street retailers.

The company said it was "reviewing all options in order to rectify matters". Last month it reported half-time pre-tax losses of £918,000 but opted to pay an interim dividend of 1.7p. It is due to make its next trading statement in January.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Damage to Tunnel link boosts P&O shares

SHARES of P&O, the ferry operator, were building up a full head of steam with a rise of 9p to 606½p as the full extent of the damage to the Channel link began to emerge.

Eurotunnel finished the session 34p lower at 88p as inquiries into the fire got under way on both sides of the Channel. The damage caused was described as severe and will take an "indefinite period of time" to repair although single-line services are expected to be resumed quickly.

But last night City brokers were trying to assess the damage to much-needed revenue for Eurotunnel, which is still trying to reach agreement with a consortium of more than 200 banks over its near £9 billion of debt.

In the meantime, brokers expect P&O, the biggest of the cross-channel ferry operators, to take full advantage of the setback to the link.

Eurotunnel and the ferry operators have been locked in a fierce battle for control of the lucrative Dover-Calais route. Eurotunnel has been gleefully market share from them and eating into their margins.

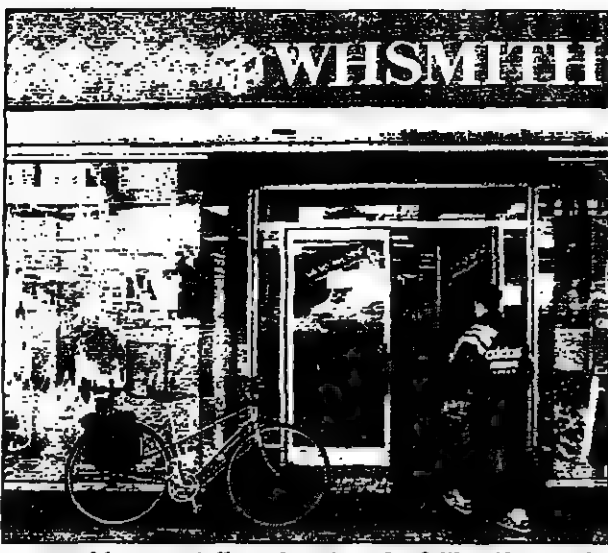
The rest of the equity market recovered some early losses on the back of another firm performance by the gilt-edged market. The absence of any positive performance by Wall Street overnight saw the FT-SE 100 index fall eight points in early trading before rallying to close just below its best of the day. It ended 16 points up at 3,978.1.

Again trading conditions were thin, with fewer than 700 million shares changing hands. Investors appear reluctant to open fresh positions before next week's Budget.

Speculative buying was directed at London Electricity, with the price climbing 28½p to 665p on reports in the American press that Entergy, the US power generator, was ready to offer 700p a share. Brokers in London said any offer would have to be at a substantial premium to last night's closing price.

The old bid stories continued to swirl round Zeneca as the price rose 4½p to £16.97½ on turnover of almost two million shares. A bid from mainland Europe or the US seems to be the favourite theory.

Better than expected half-year figures lifted Vodafone 10½p to 254p. It also cheered brokers by confirming it had bought Peoples Phone for £77



WH Smith was a dull market, the price falling 13p to 428p

million, less than originally expected. Orange rose 1p to 181p in sympathy.

WH Smith was a dull market, losing 13p to 428p after some cautious comments about future earnings growth.

Norcross advanced 4p to 93p after making a welcome return to the dividend list, while the absence of any further bad news with last year's profits

Keep an eye on Betacom, the telephone equipment supplier, where the price crept back up a further 2½p to 22½p on revised speculative buying. Alan Sugar is on the Betacom board and Amstrad continues to hold a 60 per cent interest. Once again there is talk of a minority bid at around the 30p a share level.

tickled BOC Group 4½p higher at 880½p.

Half-year figures from De La Rue were much in line with expectations. The share price topped 577½p at one stage before losing ground to close just 3½p dearer at 558½p.

Maiden half-year figures from the newly demerged EMI were warmly received. Profits were almost 10 per cent ahead, with the dividend rise

from a notional 7½p to 8p. The shares responded with a rise of 23½p to £12.94½p.

Unigate firmed 2p to 432p after almost unchanged profits. Most brokers had been looking for a small downturn.

Granada slipped 2½p to 892½p after the sale for £86 million of the Hyde Park Hotel, which it acquired along with the rest of the Forte

company earlier this year. Parvair tumbled 5½p to 207½p on the back of its second profits warning this year. That compares with their high for the year of 431p. The expected pick-up in business that had been anticipated before the year-end had failed to materialise. Beeson Gregory, the broker, is looking for a pre-tax profit figure of £4.2 million for the current year.

AG Floggs n/p (34) 10½

Arcafin Ind n/p (45) 2

Bridport-Gund n/p 1½

Capital Shop 62½p n/p 1½

Perkins Foods n/p (74) 4

Springwood n/p 7½

Stalks n/p (82) 7½

but has downgraded its estimate for 1997 from £9 million to £7 million.

A profits warning knocked Country Casuals, the clothing retailer, with the price plunging 36p to 64p after it reported a significant deterioration in trading since announcing interim figures last month.

Profits for the year to January 25 are now expected to be materially below market estimates of £2.4 million but not less than £1 million. The company blamed problems at Elvi, which had not been able to sustain the growth seen in the first half.

Enterprise Inns seemed unperturbed by the setback to profits in the first half, with the price up 12p to 250½p on speculation that it might be poised to bid for some pubs owned by Bass. It was suggested the Government might insist on Bass disposing of some pubs before allowing the Carlsberg-Tetley deal to go through. Last night Enterprise denied plans to buy any pubs from Bass, up 7p to 797p.

Droid Group made an encouraging debut, establishing a useful premium in first-time trading. Shares in the integrated information and technology systems specialist were placed at 27½p, valuing the company at £83 million. They started life at 28½p and touched a high for the day of 288½p before closing at 285½p, a premium of 10½p.

New of a bid approach linked RPT Management Services, the property specialist, 15p to 113½p. At these levels the group is capitalised at about £7.5 million.

GILT-EDGED: The bond market showed signs of running out of steam after a firm start, with investors taking a cautious line before today's money supply figures. Few seem willing to commit themselves in spite of taking an increasingly optimistic view of the Chancellor's scope to be more generous in the Budget.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt firmed ½p to £107½ as a total of 63,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose ½p to £102½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was up ½p to £103½.

NEW YORK: US stocks were higher midway through the session, aided by strength in bonds. At midday, the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 34.66 points to 6,381.57.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6381.57 (+34.66)
S&P Composite 740.86 (+3.86)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20956.18 (+159.81)
Hang Seng 13065.93 (+14.13)

Amsterdam:
Euronext 609.46 (+0.38)
Sydney: 2366.0 (-17.8)

Frankfurt:
Dax 2264.09 (+0.25)
Singapore: 2170.18 (+1.85)

Brussels:
Cac-40 10257.90 (+2.38)
Paris: 2340.05 (+11.26)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 822.30 (+3.10)

London:
FT 100 3978.1 (+16.0)
FTSE Mid 250 4400.3 (+0.1)
FTSE 250 4002.3 (+0.3)
FTSE Europe 100 1843.0 (+2.28)
FT All-Share 1954.0 (+5.31)
FT Non Financials 2046.3 (+8.26)
FT Financials 1165.3 (+0.68)
FT Govt Secs 94.66 (+0.17)
Bulgaria 1.304
SEAQ Volume 661.1m
US (Domestic) 201.49 (+0.02)
US (Overseas) 109.36 (+0.03)
German Mark 2.317 (-0.0079)
Exchange Index 92.3 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (Nov)
ECU 1.344
LSDR 1.444
RPI 153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1997-100
RPIX 153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1997-100

Recent:
Barclays 7
Barratford 4
Bechtel 4
Bentley 172
Bentley Haul Ltd 172
Britt Allcroft 159
Charles Taylor 166
Corp Euro Search 3
Deep Sea Ltd (168) 162
Druid Gp 385
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Geo Interactive M 94
Hemline Reform 99
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Majestic Wines 210
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Perkins Foods n/p (74) 4

Springwood n/p 7½

Stalks n/p (82) 7½

WAGES

WISS: 222½p (+15p)

Orange 181½p (+10p)

Black & White 37½p (+17p)

Vodafone 254p (+10p)

Trinity Int 482p (+18p)

Meyers 982p (+25p)

Man United 552p (+13p)

PizzaExpress 825p (+12p)

FALLS:

Country Casuals 84p (-36p)

Widney 40p (-15p)

Newton 207p (-57p)

Nelson 140p (-40p)

Adan 650p (-80p)

MAR 230p (-20p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Printing money, or not

CURIOUS but true: money is not a great business to be in. De La Rue has been printing banknotes for more than a century and has amassed a 60 per cent share of a market that earned the company a generous £76 million in its last full year. But in the year to March, De La Rue did nothing like as well and the reasons are clear for all to see. The banknote market has peaked, margins are under pressure and rivals, supported by fat contracts from European central banks, are stealing De La Rue's business.

The printing group warned of difficulties a year ago — volumes had been soaring on the strength of new currencies spawned in the emerging post-Soviet republics. That cycle has passed and De La Rue is now forced to sell hi-tech banknotes for low-tech prices as it feels off German competition, causing profit

margins to slip from 26 per cent to 21 per cent of sales. De La Rue is left with plenty of margin to make a comfortable living but, of course, that is part of the problem.

Such high margins and market share are an invitation to interlopers. De La Rue's main German competitor is said to be less efficient, earning single digit margins but is backed by a notorious Bundesbank contract. Over the next few years, De La Rue could see its returns squeezed further. Elsewhere, De La Rue is catching up, spending heavily to turn around its cash systems business and develop smartcard technology. New products are said to be on the way but De La Rue's customers have yet to reward it with investment in cash systems with big contracts. The bulk of the business remains banknotes and if De La Rue shares seem cheap, it is because paper money is not a good investment.

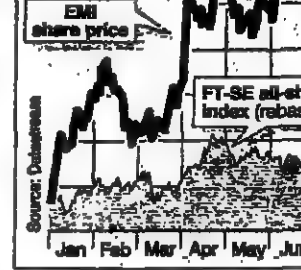
EMI

ROCK 'N' ROLL is dead, chorused the pundits only a few weeks ago after a disappointing set of results from Polygram. The replacement of old vinyl recordings with compact discs is coming to an end and the cost of launching new acts is accelerating. Critics sneered that new artists are not good enough to last a season, let alone make the backlists of companies such as EMI, which still profits from a library that boasts the Beatles.

Figures from EMI suggest the gloom is overdone. Overall, starting sales look flat but there is some improvement before currency translation. Moreover, EMI estimates that the world market grew 5.5 per cent this year. And it is adamant that growth will continue at the rate of 6 to 8 per cent in the medium term.

EMI's strength is in developing markets rather than in the troubled US music business. It has dipped a toe into China and Indonesia, countries that offer huge rewards in the medium term. Music companies can gear up on bumper sales from an individual artist, but this time EMI managed to improve margins a percentage point without a big name. Better performance from world music helped because of lower marketing costs.

Bid rumours sent EMI shares to unsustainable levels after the company shuffled Thom off its back. But the share price correction aggravated by the performance of rival companies has been overdue.



Vodafone

VODAFONE is the only mobile-phone group with significant overseas operations. It began to gobble up international licences in the late 1980s and now boasts a network stretching from Sweden to South Africa. However, heavy start-up costs, operating losses, problems with foreign partners and cultural barriers, were all reflected in the volatile share price.

But Vodafone is now seeing winnings from its foreign gambles. Many of these ventures are either in profit or close to it, and the portfolio as a whole is in the black for the first time. For shareholders, this has a double benefit. With foreign gains now outstripping domestic growth by a wide margin, Vodafone still has the potential for strong earnings growth. A further bonus is the prospect of rising dividends. Capital expenditure has reached £700 million a year and Vodafone

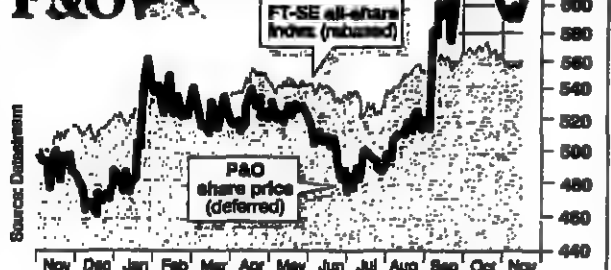
distributes only about 30 per cent of its earnings per share in the form of dividends, against 46 per cent at British Telecom and as much as 70 per cent at some American phone companies. As investment levels decline, Vodafone should be able to pay out more. Meanwhile, the flotation of overseas operations — the earliest candidates are in Greece, The Netherlands and Australia — offers the possibility of some big distributions.

The City's view of Omada is tainted by Forane, the anesthetic gas whose profits have been slashed by £103 million since it went off patent

BOC

BOC GROUP was keen to impress yesterday, an attempt to reverse a distinctly downy view conveyed at the interim. BOC was also anxious to dispel the impression that Omada, its healthcare business, is a lame dog that should be put down. The City's view of Omada is tainted by Forane, the anesthetic gas whose profits have been slashed by £103 million since it went off patent

P&O: FULL STEAM AHEAD



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LONDON FINANCIAL MARKETS

FT-SE 100: 3978.1 (+16.0)
Previous open interest: 6355
FT-SE 250: 4400.3 (+0.1)
Previous open interest: 4911
Three Month Sterling: 92.97 (+0.02)
Previous open interest: 52394

Three Month Euro: 92.97 (+0.02)
Previous open interest: 10232
Long Gilt: 110.10 (+0.05)
Previous open interest: 14962
Japanese Govt Bond: 124.64 (+0.05)
Previous open interest: 14962

German Govt Bond: 101.07 (+0.05)
Previous open interest: 20149
Three Month ECU: 92.97 (+0.02)
Previous open interest: 3405
Euro Swiss Franc: 92.97 (+0.02)
Previous open interest: 9093
Italian Govt Bond: 124.64 (+0.05)
Previous open interest: 10232

Money Rates (%):
Discount: 5.00
Overnight: 5.00
3 Month: 5.00
6 Month: 5.00
12 Month: 5.00

Prime Bank Bill: 5.00
Sterling Money Rate: 5.00
Overnight: 5.00
3 Month: 5.00
6 Month: 5.00
12 Month: 5.00

Local Authority: 5.00
Sterling CDs: 5.00
Building Society CDs: 5.00

European Money Deposits (%):
1 Month: 5.00
3 Month: 5.00
6 Month: 5.00
12 Month: 5.00

Gold Prices (£/ounce):
Gold: 380.00
Silver: 16.00
Platinum: 1100.00

Sterling Spot and Forward Rates:
Spot: 1.00
1 Month: 1.00
3 Month: 1.00
6 Month: 1.00
12 Month: 1.00

Mid Rates for Nov 19:
Austria: 13.76
Belgium: 13.76
Denmark: 13.76
France: 13.76
Germany: 13.76
Greece: 13.76
Italy: 13.76
Japan: 13.76
Netherlands: 13.76
Portugal: 13.76
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Sweden: 13.76
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Standard Life springs a leak

ITS all hands on deck at Standard Life, after the assurance company's luxury cruise competition sprung a leak.

Seduced by pictures of palm trees and azure skies in the company's quarterly newsletter, customers were invited to complete a crossword and win a "superb two-week cruise to the Caribbean for two people on the Cunard Countess". But the Countess is no more. Kvaerner sold it to an Indonesian company at the end of last month. Sibbald Travel, the Edinburgh-based operators, omitted to tell Standard Life. "We will be offering an equally prestigious prize instead," a somewhat abashed spokeswoman told us.

Toytown Ferrari

AN advertising agent is raffling his red Ferrari at £10 a ticket to raise money for Children In Need. David Desborough, who bid £1,000 for the child-sized sports car at a charity auction ten years ago, is happy to see the back of it. "It has not moved from the garden shed — I didn't even take it out of its box," he says, adding that his memories of the actual night remain vague. Even Desborough's children were not allowed to take a look at his new wheels. So, on Friday, Michael Bright, classic car enthusiast and chief executive at Independent Insurance, will raffie the Ferrari at the London Underwriting Centre.



Too many forgeries about if you ask me

Ship ahoy

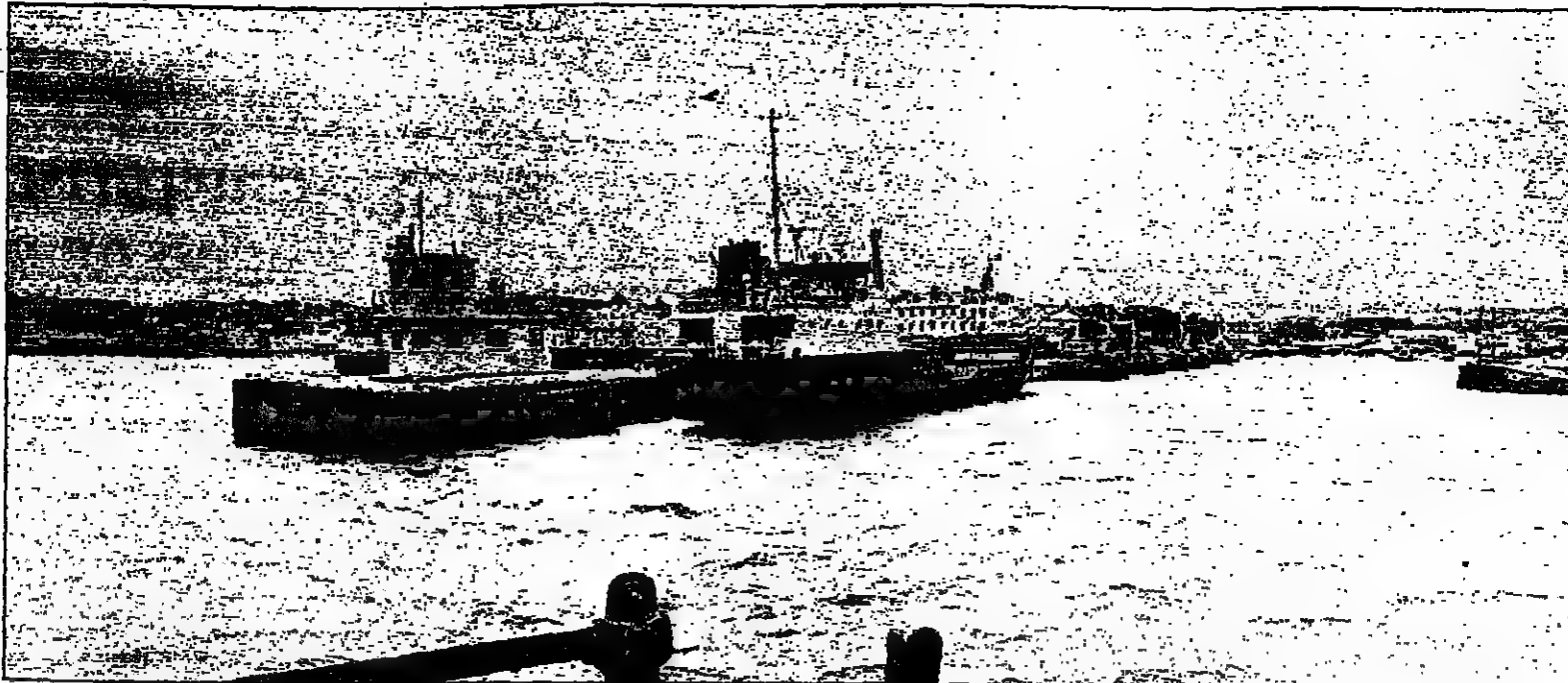
EVER wanted to watch your colleagues make their way to work on a boat emblazoned with your name. White Horse Ferries, the marine transport company launching a 60-seat ferry service between London Bridge and Canary Wharf next Monday, could hold the key. The company, owned by four brothers, wants to set up and operate a 14-fleet service in time for the millennium. Having already splashed out £1.6 million on the project, the brothers are inviting City tycoons the chance to participate in a profit-share arrangement. A ferry will cost around £250,000 and the initial return on investment will be shielded from tax by capital depreciation of the vessel. Investors will also enjoy their choice of vessel name and livery.

THE SUDDEN arrival of winter caused chaos in the City yesterday. It was gridlock at City Brasserie, where infuriated diners were forced to queue for the coat check. Harassed staff were less than cool with customers kept waiting in a line that stretched all the way around the block.

Smoke screen

MIKE GREENLEES, chief executive of GGT, the advertising agency, is trying to give up smoking in the midst of the company's attempts to complete its £110 million purchase of BDDP. This is bad news for Mark Baylis, the finance director, who tells us that Greenlees appears to be smoking as much as ever, without actually buying any cigarettes.

MORAG PRESTON



Douglas harbour, Isle of Man, where the finance sector is a powerful force, with more than 5,200 companies registered in the territory

Places of shelter for the good, the bad and simply unsavoury

Mil-Tec has put the spotlight on tax havens.

Robert Miller and Jon Ashworth report

Headlines about offshore tax havens rarely make happy reading. The future over Mil-Tec Corporation, the Isle of Man-registered company at the centre of allegations of supplying some £3.3 million of arms to the former Rwandan Army, is just the latest — and particularly unsavoury — example.

Offshore centres tend to be seen either as a shelter for the taxman for the very wealthy, or a facilitator to those who want to shield their activities from local and international authorities through special trusts or off-the-shelf companies that can be bought for as little as £600 a year.

But then it is just as easy, and often cheaper by hundreds of pounds, to buy an off-the-shelf company on the UK mainland. What is more, millions of people domiciled on the UK mainland hold offshore bank and building society accounts, and offshore funds, for sound fiscal reasons. Close to home, the Channel Islands of Guernsey, Jersey and tiny Sark, and the Isle of Man, are recognised as obvious offshore centres but so are Luxembourg and Gibraltar.

The Isle of Man, now in the spotlight because of Mil-Tec, is a major base for all types of international corporate and investment business. The finance sector is a powerful force on the island, providing nearly one in five jobs, and generating about 36 per cent of the national income. More than 5,200 companies are registered in the territory, contributing at least £2 million in fees to the local economy.

A non-resident company such as Mil-Tec can be set up for as little as £485, according to Jordans, a UK company specialising in company formations. Administration is likely to cost £400 a year, and the provision of nominee shareholders will cost a further £150 per annum. Non-resident company duty is payable at a rate of £600 a year.

The first year's annual administration fee includes a registered office address and a full secretarial service. This would cover the creation and maintenance of the statutory registers. Directors are available for appointment at an annual cost of about £250. There are extra charges for any work done on behalf of the company.

BDO Binder, the firm that adminis-

ters Mil-Tec, has provided a range of custodial and other services since setting up in the Isle of Man in 1981. John Clarke and Bernard Galka, BDO's representatives on the island, were appointed directors of Mil-Tec when the company was incorporated in February 1993, but resigned after just four months. They were succeeded by John Donnelly and his father, Trevor, both residents of Sark, who earn a living as professional company directors.

Further afield there are also numerous small island states from the Caribbean to the Pacific. In between are many other countries whose strict laws on banking secrecy are legendary, and into this category fall Liechtenstein and Switzerland. But both these countries would argue that when it comes to co-operating with overseas regulators and police forces they provide every assistance, although depending on the nature of the inquiry or investigation this can still take time.

As one senior City lawyer said yesterday: "There are sliding scales in terms of help from the offshore and banking centres. You have to remember that their economies are generally built on the fact that they are tax havens so inquiries about tax frauds are not likely to elicit as much help as say drug-related profits, money-laundering money or banking frauds."

The Cayman Islands have long been associated with "opaque" offshore trusts and a haven in which international criminals have hidden much of their wealth from the prying eyes of investigators. The British Virgin Islands is another. Yet both these island states would claim that they have been

making strenuous efforts over the past couple of years to clean up their image. The Cayman Islands was commended recently by the head of America's Drug Enforcement Agency for its assistance in breaking up a cocaine cartel. One noted City fraudbuster takes a more cynical view of such efforts: "Many of the islands are on America's doorstep. If they refused to co-operate it wouldn't just be a matter of vital economic aid drying up, they'd probably wake up to find the US Seventh fleet on their door step, as Panama did when Noriega was arrested."

Earlier this year senior officials from the Serious Fraud Office went public in an interview with The Times to express their concerns that efforts to prosecute criminals, whether drug-runners, financial fraudsters or arms dealers, and to cut off the proceeds from their criminal activities were being hampered by a lack of co-operation with many of the smaller offshore islands around the world.

The example most quoted was that of the Seychelles and its Economic Development Act (EDA), which was dubbed "a money-launderer's charter". Critics of the EDA claimed that, for \$10 million, criminals, including UK citizens, could obtain diplomatic status in the Seychelles and a guarantee that their assets will be protected if any foreign authority tried to seize or even trace them.

The civil and criminal authorities in the UK say that they alone cannot win the battle against money-laundering and the use of offshore havens to mask illegal or even "unsavoury" activities. To this end there is now a duty of care on banks, building societies, City investment houses, lawyers, account-



Holiday and offshore haven

ants and auditors to check out their clients before taking them on and being satisfied as to the source of the money. In theory at least it should now be impossible for someone to walk into a Channel Islands or Isle of Man bank with \$1 million and ask to open an account without being challenged as to where the money came from and how it was earned.

With millions of companies and trusts being operated out of so many offshore centres there is no way that the authorities can keep tabs on each one to intercept any evidence of wrongdoing so they must generally rely on the help of others. The catchphrase beloved of all watchdogs, civil and criminal, is "Know Your Client".

Gay Sellars, international tax partner at Ernst & Young, one of the leading firms of accountants, said: "We have extremely stringent client acceptance procedures. We go through a number of checks, including references which we take up and check on. If someone wanted to set up an overseas or offshore company, and we were the advisers or auditors, we would want to know all the reasons."

Ms Sellars added that the actual mechanism of setting up an offshore company from the UK was not that difficult since the abolition of exchange controls, although there was a contingent known as Treasury Consent that was still on the statute books. This, however, is more of an inland Revenue monitoring device, she said.

Offshore companies, bank accounts and special trusts are used every day by millions of people pursuing lawful business. With the help of the regulatory authorities in the offshore centres and their liaison with UK watchdogs, the illegal and unsavoury aspect of offshore financial systems can be watched closely.

The real problem, however, is summed up by Brendan Hewson, a former senior UK fraud squad officer and a vice-president at the US NationsBank, who said: "Fraudsters can go to any airport in the world and take the next flight out to freedom. Law-enforcement officers have to go through complicated and diplomatic channels and apply for special Commission Rogatoire letters."

In the meantime, the criminals get to enjoy the fruits of their ill-gotten gains.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Explaining the high demand for nonsense

A favourite slogan of my first stockbroker was "The market is always right." To an arrogant young economist, this seemed obvious nonsense. Financial markets are always, I argued — yes, always — en route from one untenable position to another, and can only even look right by making the journey a slow one. Clever stuff, but a few attempts to out-guess the trend taught me what he meant. The market may know next to nothing about real life, but it does know (except at rare turning-points) where it itself is going. In the words of my favourite Swiss banker (not a gnome): "My reason tells me the market is much too high; my book tells me it is going up."

Why this disparity? Because the time scales are hopelessly out of synch. The forces that determine underlying long-term trends — "secular" bull and bear markets — are glacially slow. The bull market caused by a baby boom runs for a working lifetime; then it reverses, remorselessly. A technological lead used to last a century (though not any more) and a coalfield or an oilfield two or three. Even the shock of a big financial crash can reverberate for a quarter century, as after 1929.

None of this matters in the least to market professionals: they make their money not by guessing what will happen in the real world, but by guessing in advance what less professional investors will be worrying about next. Tracking the real world through market prices is about as useful as observing a glacier with a high-speed camera. This explains why the market's own economists — men who really do know better — talk nonsense so much of the time. They are afraid that they might otherwise be convincing. Clients will not thank them for a good forecast if it points to a losing investment strategy — the Roger Bootle view of inflation, for example; brilliant economics, but a rotten gits pointer. Much safer to offer "forecasts" that support market trends. That is the right story to believe if you seriously want to get rich.

None of this is news to any experienced investor or

reporter; but that brings us to the real puzzle. Why do these people still treat so-called market forecasts (whether written down or derived from yield curves) as if they had anything to tell us, except about the markets? We have been warned endlessly, for example, that "the market expects" British inflation or interest rates to rise. Since both fell consistently for years, this would argue amazing obstinacy; but in fact the yields are telling us no such thing. They told us simply that the professional speculators who were borrowing such astronomical sums in Japanese yen preferred the mark or the Swiss franc for the long side of their "play".

Now we see something even odder: attempts to read the political future from the price charts. The detailed negotiations over EMU have become a tense interlocking power struggle, as Anatole Kaletsky pointed out yesterday, and the loser may yet go off in a huff. Talk to a German banker, and he will tell you that the odds on EMU actually starting in 1999 are no better than even. But talk to a London trader who reveres the market, and you will hear that EMU — and even Italian first-stage membership is inevitable — "a done deal." Why? Because European bond yields have converged.

Nonsense. What the yield curves tell us is that the professionals have been making what they call "a convergence play" — an educated guess that markets would respond only sluggishly to the possible approach of EMU, so that they can be there first. Their implied slogan: "Angels rush in where fools fear to tread"; and quite right, too. But they have made their money by now, and are moving on to other "plays". George Soros, for example, is now reported to be going massively short of the Swiss franc. This will interest you if you believe that anyone actually knows what Soros is doing; or if you suspect that Soros (or some other hedge speculator) has completed such a move, and is now trying to encourage others to buy his position. All absorbingly interesting to poker players; but not, surely, to economists.

US West shows signs of retreat from Britain

The latest round of telecoms mergers has put increased pressure on one cable operator, says Eric Reguly

US West, one of America's largest cable and media groups, preparing to scale back its \$1 billion investment in Britain? There are indications that it is considering a sweeping reorganisation of its holdings, one that could reduce its local exposure.

If so, it would not be alone. Its rival American companies such as Nynex, Southwestern Bell and Cox Communications are all on the retreat from Britain.

US West insists that it is committed to Britain but nonetheless is pulling back in some areas. The process started last week when US West International, its overseas investment arm based in London, confirmed that it had placed Thomson Directories on the auction block.

The news came as a surprise. US West bought Thomson only two years ago, reportedly paying about £90 million, and gave every indication that it was gearing up for a fight with British Telecom's Yellow Pages business.

Thomson, US West explained, no longer fits its core international strategy. Gary Ames, chief executive of US West International, said: "We're really trying to focus on wireless communications and the cable-telephony business." That may be so, but questions



An early radiophone from 1984. Only the fittest flourish in the fast-moving telecommunications environment with its premium on consolidation

hang over those investments in Britain. US West owns 27 per cent of TeleWest Communications, Britain's largest cable company, and half of Mercury One-2-One, the smallest of the four mobile phone networks. The other portfolio holding is 9 per cent of Flextech, the cable and satellite TV programmer

al, and TeleWest in particular, went from bad to worse. The shares are now trading at 125p, making US West's investment worth only about £320 million.

The cable company, saddled with stubbornly high disconnection rates and low penetration rates, is looking particu-

larly vulnerable at the moment. The reason is that the latest round of mergers have left it out in the cold. TeleWest can take credit for starting the consolidation craze in 1995 with the purchase of SBC CableComms, the fifth-largest player.

But the mother of all deals, the proposed merger of Mercury Communications, owned 80 per cent by Cable and Wireless, and three leading cable companies — Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron — has upstaged TeleWest. Analysts think that the merged cable and phone company group, to be called Cable and Wireless Communications, has the potential to be a telecoms and media powerhouse.

The consensus among analysts and rival cable companies is that US West would consider selling its TeleWest stake unless TeleWest can strike a deal that gives it greater industry clout. But with only 27 per cent of the equity, US West does not have the luxury of determining TeleWest's future. It would have to convince TeleComms International, which also owns 27 per cent, and Southwestern Bell and Cox Communications, each with 10 per cent, to support its

proposals. The trouble is the latter two are anxious to get out. One analyst said: "It wouldn't surprise me in the least if US West sold its stake in TeleWest." But Mr Ames maintains the speculation is wrong, but he admits that the cable company is in flux. "I do believe there will be more consolidation in the industry, and TeleWest is open to fur-

ther expansion," he said. "We've had conversations with a lot of people about that."

One-2-One's future is also uncertain. The mobile-phone company made the mistake of rolling out its network exceedingly slowly and is now struggling to catch its rival Orange, which made national coverage a priority from the onset. Nonetheless, One-2-One should be profitable before the end of the decade. The question is whether US West will stick around that long.

The idea of merging One-2-One with the new Cable and Wireless Communications group, a deal which would create the first cable, media and mobile-communications company, has been floated. If it happens, US West's ownership may get diluted.

US West's investments in Britain have been costly and, for the most part, disappointing. It said that it remains a believer in the British market, but forces may work against it in the end.

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Equities squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Equities squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100.00	99.50	Alco. Beverages	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Banks	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Breweries, Pubs & Rest.	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Building & Construct.	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Building Materials	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Chemicals	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Distributors	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Engineering	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Engineering, Vehicles	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Food Manufacturers	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Healthcare	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Household Goods	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Insurance	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Investment Trusts	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Leisure & Hotels	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Mining	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Oil & Gas	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Pharmaceuticals	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Printing & Paper	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Property	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Telecommunications	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Textiles & Apparel	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Transport	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Retailers, Food	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
100.00	99.50	Retailers, General	100.00	+0.50	4.5%	15.0
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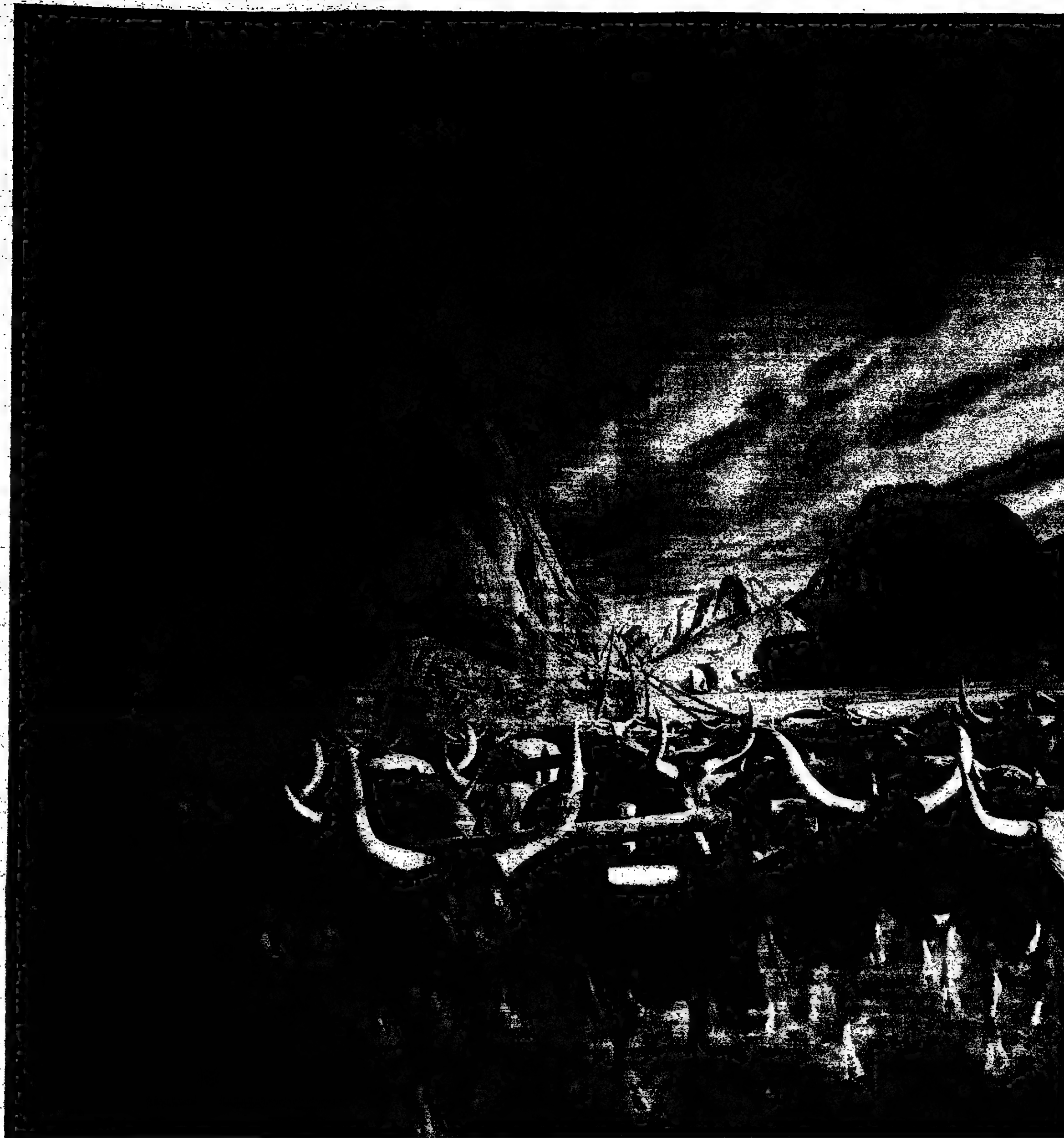
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POP 1

South Africa makes plans to preserve its tribal culture and nurture its young stars



POP 2

Dank and furtive, Tricky's music receives a dark and dramatic live presentation to match in Brixton

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

... while, at Shepherds Bush, Sheryl Crow's show seemed prematurely middle-aged



RISING STAR

At 14, could the Welsh schoolgirl Rakhi Singh be the next violin prodigy?

Mohamed goes to the mountain

Nigel Williamson meets a man with a mighty task – to record South Africa's music before it is lost for ever

In the 1930s, Alan Lomax toured the southern states of America making a series of historic recordings for the Library of Congress. By doing so he re-created a dying tradition of country blues sung by black sharecroppers, chain-gang convicts and others living in rural poverty, and put the world of music in his debt. During his travels he discovered the likes of Leadbelly and Blind Willie McTell and recorded for posterity a unique folk culture which later inspired a generation of musicians from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen.

This month the veteran South African musician Pops Mohamed and his country's broadcasting corporation began a similar exercise across southern Africa. The intention is to record the music of rural tribes before that, too, is lost for ever. The project will take in the remarkable ritual music of the women dancers of Venda in northern Transvaal; the split-tone singers of the Xhosa in the Eastern Cape, whose extraordinary technique allows them to sing two notes simultaneously; and the timeless chants of the Khoi-San, the bushmen of the Kalahari. "This music is centuries old and it has to be carefully nurtured," Mohamed says. "And these musicians have to be recorded in the field because they are never going to enter a studio."

It is one of the ironies of a free South Africa that the survival of traditional music has never been more precarious. While the white regime ruled the country, tribal music was a badge of resistance, and a symbol of faith in indigenous culture. Today a democratic South Africa means a free range of influences across the rainbow nation, and like so much of the rest of the world, a creeping American cultural hegemony, even in the townships and the rural areas.

Terry Cohen, the drummer with the successful Johannesburg all-women group the Pressure Cookers, says: "The kids in Soweto want to have the same as kids of their age in America. It is all hip-hop and rap and back-to-front baseball caps.

They don't necessarily want to be reminded of their own cultural background."

Radio encourages this with an endless diet of the latest American sounds. Local musicians recently won a legal quota requiring stations to play 20 per cent South African music, but this still means four foreign acts for every South African artist given airplay. Five years ago a third of all record sales



"If people don't understand where they came from, there is a hole in the soul"

POPS MOHAMED

were by local artists. Today the figure is one in six.

Paul Kruger, the Boer War leader, said on his deathbed that "those who wish to create the future must not lose sight of the past". The old racist would seem to be an unlikely exemplar for black musicians but Mohamed, who has long been running a one-man crusade to keep traditional music alive, endorses the sentiment. "Through traditional music people can find

their own sense of African identity, a respect for themselves, their culture and for others," he says.

"People are letting their heritage die if they only listen to Western sounds. If they don't understand where they came from, there is a hole where the soul should be."

Mohamed strives ceaselessly to encourage young musicians to go back to their roots. When not recording or touring, he will be found running workshops in the townships, tutoring students on how to play traditional instruments. Although the South African Ministry of Culture is supportive, there is no government financial aid for such projects. In the reconstruction of modern South Africa there are more pressing priorities.

But Mohamed is no dyed-in-the-wool traditionalist. His last album, *Ancestral Healing*, combines contemporary instruments and electronics with a sense of his African background. Immediately before embarking on his tribal field recordings, he was on tour with Tananas, South Africa's top multi-racial jazz fusion band. His role was to add the African textures of the *kora* and the *mbira* to the Western rhythms.

Neither instrument is strictly South African: the *kora* is a 21-string harp from West Africa and the *mbira* is the traditional thumb piano of Zimbabwe. The ending of apartheid allowed musicians from across Africa to get together and develop a common musical heritage," Mohamed says. Some of the biggest selling world-music acts such as Saaba Maal and Youssou N'Dour have visited and played with local musicians, something which could never have happened under the old regime.

However, Hugh Masekela, the veteran jazz musician who returned to South Africa after 30 years in exile, complains that the music industry is still owned and run by whites. "There is no investment in the townships, and the whites still own everything," he says. "The whites are the only people who have been liberated, because they are no longer pariahs."



On Johannesburg's streets the buskers still play traditional instruments. But what sells is hip-hop and rap, the music of the West

Kerry Friedman, the manager of Tananas, agrees in part, but sees development elsewhere. "The record industry here is totally hidebound," she says. "They don't really know what is happening." Instead, an entire subculture has grown up outside the mainstream which allows local Afro-pop acts to sell huge numbers of albums on small, independent labels without the benefit of company promotion or radio play. "Nobody in smart Johannesburg society has heard of a band like Penny Penny," Friedman says, "but they have sold

200,000 albums in the townships by word of mouth."

In some respects, it cannot be denied that a racial divide is still evident. Last month the American singer Tracy Chapman, who has probably played more anti-apartheid concerts in America and Europe than anyone, performed for 70,000 people at a racetrack outside Johannesburg. Before she went on stage, she looked out at a sea of white faces and asked what had happened to the rainbow nation. The answer was that, at 120 rands a ticket (about £17, or more than a

week's groceries), the audience was always going to be 95 per cent white. So she held a workshop in Soweto for those who could not afford the ticket price.

Musicians are struggling in the new South Africa – but then Nelson Mandela never promised anyone it was going to be easy. Johannesburg's most famous live music club, Kippie's, has temporarily closed after running into financial difficulties. Over at the Bass Line, another top jazz venue, Brad Holmes, the owner, has sold his car to pay some of the club's bills.

But the music remains vibrant and Friedman rounds on the pessimists. "We are free from the yoke of apartheid, so we are now moving beyond the political phase and concentrating on producing great music. There is an upsurge out there, so many great new bands."

It cannot be long before they make a major impact on the rest of the world, for, as even the otherwise pessimistic Masekela says: "South Africans are the most resilient, joyous people I know. And the music proves it."

POP AND JAZZ: An American songbird fails to take flight; Bristolian rapper keeps to the shadows; touching M-Base

Let's talk Glamour but not a lot to Crow about basic

WHEN Chicago-born saxophonist Steve Coleman and a small but influential group of like-minded musicians first burst on the New York scene in the mid 1980s, their brand of improvised music, a street-smart mix of jazz with hip-hop, soul and rap, was referred to by its adherents themselves as M-Base: Macro-Basic, Array of Structures.

Steve Coleman
Jazz Café, NW1

Extemporisation. Born partly out of frustration at the prevalence in the contemporary jazz world of retro-jazz, and partly out of a straightforward desire, in Coleman's words, "to find a common language, based on a certain balance of structure and improvisation", M-Base music can strike the unprepared ear as a somewhat relentless barrage of hip virtuosity set to robotic beats.

Heard in its proper setting, though – a packed club with a standing audience – the great strengths of the style become immediately apparent. As soon as Coleman's five elements (key-board player Andy Milne, bassist David Dyson, percussionist Ange Diaz Zayas and drummer Sean Rickman, plus an onstage dancer, Rosangela Silvestre) set up their hypnotic rhythm, the sheer visceral impact of the music took immediate hold. Bodies were set in motion, not to come to rest until nearly two hours later.

Coleman's alto sound is also very much an acquired taste. Slippery and dry at first, it owes enough stylistic debt to Charlie Parker, and is infused with sufficient soulful pep from the likes of James Brown's saxophonist Maceo Parker, to enable admirers of either influence to find a way into Coleman's music.

Coming as it did at the end of the ten-day Oris London Jazz Festival, Coleman's exhilarating display proved that the jazz scene is as vibrant and innovative as it ever was.

CHRIS PARKER



Tricky: siring his feminine qualities alongside his machismo

Sheryl Crow
Empire, W12

ensuing numbers that seemed to be stuck in third gear, confirming an impression of Crow as a performer with a lot of words and melody in her soul, but little sense of urgency in her style.

Although a glamorous figure in her skimpy black T-shirt and tight black trousers, with a succession of acoustic and electric guitars slung around her neck, she did not come across as a natural exhibitionist. Her five-piece backing band performed ably, but added little colour, and it took a while for the show to gather pace. But the sheer weight of great tunes gradually took effect: *Run, Baby, Run*, *Sweet Rosalyn*, *Maybe Angels* and *Can't Cry Anymore* all hit the spot with a satisfying grace.

Towards the end of the show, the band were joined by Crow's former employer and romantic companion of recent months, Eric Clapton. Despite looking as if he had been dragged away from a quiet night in front of the telly, he effortlessly upstaged the rock



Run, baby, run: Sheryl Crow's performance never really gets beyond third gear

ordinaire style of Crow's own guitarists.

His contribution to the songs, including *All I Wanna*

Do, Home, Superstar and a grandstanding finale of *Ordinary Morning*, finally tipped the balance, turning an enjoy-

able if somewhat workaday set into something special.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Awkward manoeuvres in the dark

Tricky
Fridge, SW2

ALTHOUGH last year's debut Tricky album, *Makin' Moves*, was wildly hailed as a new peak in left-field British pop, the first ramshackle live shows put together by this mercurial Bristolian rapper never quite did it justice.

Returning from voluntary exile in New York to showcase his second official album, *Pre-Millennium Tension*, Tricky has assembled a new band of session players and a fresh stage show. But, if anything, showmanship seems to be an even smaller consideration now. At Brixton's Fridge club on Monday, the six-strong group delivered the entire 90-minute set entombed in sepulchral gloom, illuminated only by occasional splashes of billous green and purple light. Tricky himself spent much of the show with his back to the audience and, with fellow lead vocalist Martina Topley-Bird, in murky silhouette.

An awkward non-conformist stance, perhaps, but one which suited the music's dank, furtive, claustrophobic

mood to perfection. While these endlessly repeated drum loops and freeform asthmatic rasps occasionally overstepped the line between compelling intensity and turgid self-indulgence, Tricky's latest band still brought most of them vividly to life, from the simmering slow-motion funk of *Christiansands* to the grinding industrial cacophony of *Vent*.

Strikingly, there was a punkish energy to much of the set which was previously confined to Tricky's records alone. A ferocious new composition with the working title *Stevie Wonder* certainly found its author on combative form, snarling like a West Country gangsta rapper over relentless waves of rattling percussion.

Yet, ironically, Tricky's uniqueness derives from being a rapper who publicly airs his vulnerable, intro-

spective and feminine qualities alongside his brooding machismo. He may play up his demonic side, but Topley-Bird is clearly his guardian angel, bringing some semblance of harmony to his fevered vision. And to his credit, Tricky allowed his heavenly voice to shine on many highlights at Brixton, including the eerily beautiful former single *Overcome* and the high-speed rap marathon *Lyrics of Fury*.

So it seems that not only has Tricky learnt how to present his music in a suitably dramatic manner, but also that he has done so by defiantly rejecting the fashionable "trip-hop" label which has dogged his career to date. While that nebulous tag has come to signify tasteless background music, Tricky wilfully pursues an ever darker and dirtier muse. Just as long as Topley-Bird is there to act as ying to his yang, Tricky's live shows will remain starkly uncompromising but spellbinding experiences.

STEPHEN DALTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
RAKHI SINGH

Age: 14.

Why is she in the news? Accompanied by the London Philharmonic, she will be playing Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 in G Minor at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Saturday, as a finalist in the tenth Audi Junior Musician competition. Victory would bring a trophy and £2,000.

Home town: Llandybïe, South Wales. She has been at Chetham's School of Music, in Manchester, since passing a demanding audition at the age of nine.

What's her secret? "I have perfect pitch, which helps a lot. Violin playing is just something I can do naturally, the way some people are good at catching a ball."

Musical genes: Her uncle, Gordon Gange, is a violinist with the BBC Philharmonic. Her mother, Dorothy, teaches violin at Trinity College, Carmarthen, and put a tiny fiddle into Rakhi's hands when she was three. Her brother, 11-year-old Davi-Jo, is also at Chetham's, studying – you guessed it – violin. "Dad's the odd one out. He prefers cricket."

Dedication: "I practise four hours a day in term time, plus about five hours' school work. In the holidays I sometimes practise five hours a day."

Heroes? "I worship Heifetz and Perlman. They both have amazing, unique styles."

Wish list: "I don't own my own violin." She will play the Bruch on a violin made in Paris in 1880, on loan from J. & A. Beare of London.

Positive thinking: "Whether I win or not, I'll have had the chance to play solo with a professional orchestra in a big London concert hall. What more could you ask for?"

Ambition: "I would love to be a soloist, but I'd be happy to play in an orchestra. I couldn't live without the violin."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



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BUILDINGS

The banks that like to say "What are you having?" counting-houses find new life in the pub trade

CONCERT 1

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies brings a capacity audience to the Bridgewater Hall with a nostalgic new work

THE TIMES ARTS

CONCERT 2

... and Brahms gets the Andras Schiff treatment at the launch of a mini-festival in the Wigmore Hall

OFFER

Special prices to see the Royal Ballet dance MacMillan: see Theatre Club, below

CONCERTS: A Davies premiere; plus London reviews

Blackboard memories

IF A glamorous touring orchestra such as the San Francisco Symphony cannot fill the Bridgewater Hall, what chance, without a star conductor or popular soloist, has the BBC Philharmonic of half-filling it? The unlikely answer is that the BBC PO's latest concert — in which Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducted a new piece of his own, *Throstle's Nest Junction*, together with works by Bruch, Sibelius and Shostakovich — was all but sold out.

**BBC PO/Maxwell Davies
Bridgewater Hall,
Manchester**

The conclusion must be that, after an opening which could scarcely have been more disastrous if the executives of the Hall and of the new building had conspired to sink it, the Bridgewater Hall is beginning to stimulate public

interest. Certainly, from a seat near the front of the choir circle and with an orchestra playing into the auditorium rather than resting on acoustic illusions on the platform, the hall is sounding very much better.

Thin in musical substance but abundant in sonorous effects, the new Davies piece needs conditions like that. Some of the sounds, such as the simulated tramcar bell, are immediately and nostalgically identifiable; others, like the rattled dustbin lid and the chalk scraped on blackboards, have a visual interest if no obvious meaning. All of them are inspired by the composer's memories of the Salford in which he grew up in the 1930s. Anyway, *Throstle's Nest Junction* is an advance on the last piece in the series, *Cross Lane Fair*: at least in that the theatrical element — four bursting balloons in this case instead of a juggling act — is actually integrated into the texture.

After an engaging but sometimes cautious account of Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor by Olivier Charlier, who really needed to get on with it towards the end of the last movement, and some lovely cor anglais playing in *The Swan of Tuonela*, Davies conducted a particularly interesting interpretation of Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony. He clearly does not take the view that, despite outward appearances, it has to be treated as a merely jokey or even predominantly light-hearted piece. He detected profound unease in the slow movement, and found a threat even amid the burlesque episodes of the finale.

**Andras Schiff
Wigmore Hall**

ment of this early work can, in less sensitive hands, seem long-winded. Here, though, its long and ever-expanding themes were revealed as the searching and variegated creatures that they are. Song became march and, before we knew it, had tumbled over into the final *Rondo alla Zingarese*, with Schiff's fingers recreating a one-man gypsy band of thrillingly idiomatic pulse, rhythm and accent.

HILARY FINCH

GERALD LARNER

Flurries of rich feeling

**London Sinfonietta
Queen Elizabeth Hall**

THE composer Sofia Gubaidulina is 65, and in celebration the London Sinfonietta invited her to its all-Gubaidulina programme on Saturday. She is one of the most distinctive voices to have emerged from the old Soviet Union: she acknowledges Shostakovich and Berg as mentors, not for their sound but because they taught her to be herself.

Gubaidulina would probably have been herself anyway. Now resident in Germany, she is one of the few composers of the Russian school not to dwell nostalgically on the past. Most of her music seems to gaze by turns fearfully and fearlessly into the future.

Even her 1993 *Meditation on the Bach Chorale, Before Thine I come, O Lord*, for five voices and harpsichord, a this visionary quality. String meltings set against a brittle harpsichord are interrupted by suburbs of gruff double

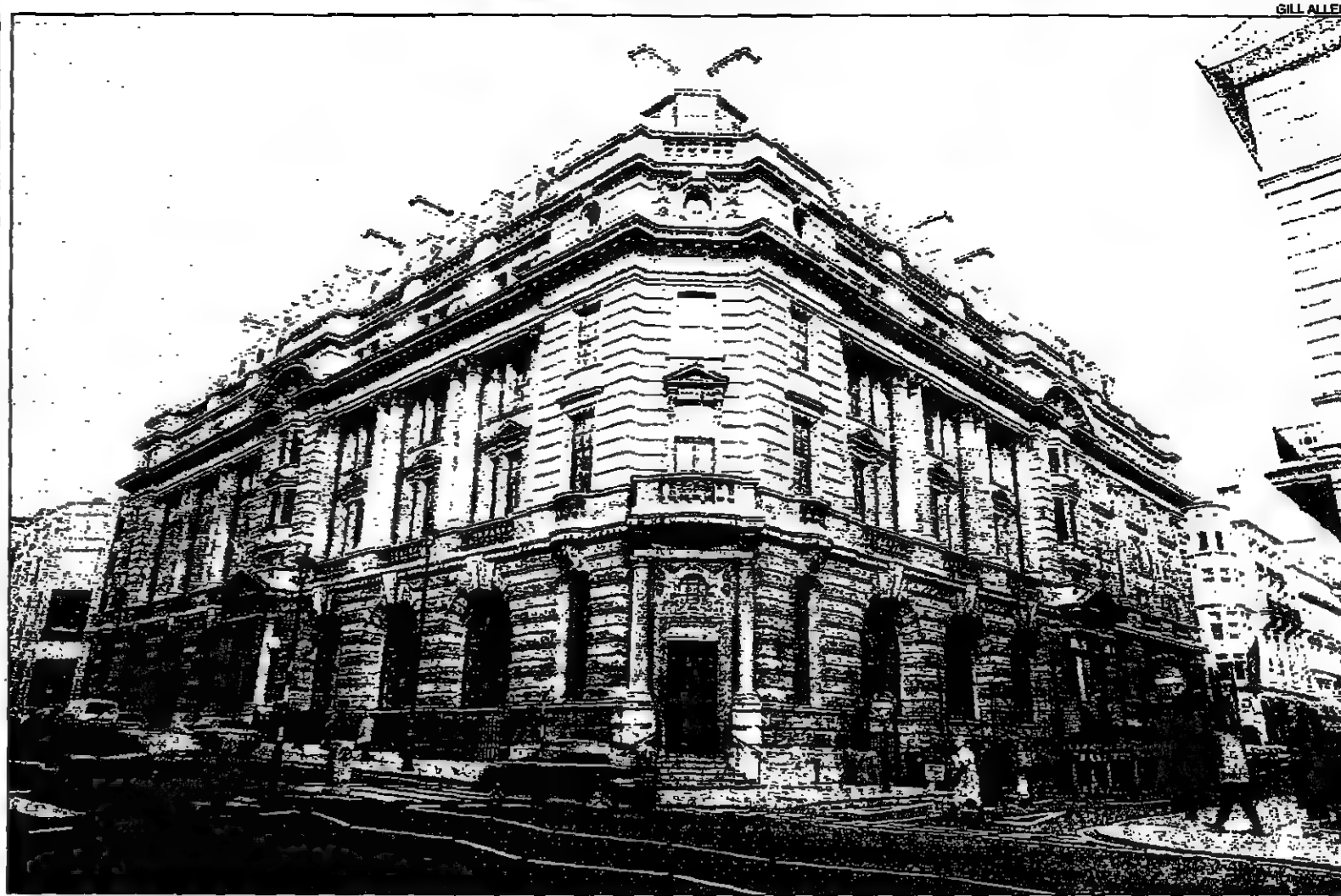
bass, flutterings and howlings from the upper instruments, very effective in this first London performance.

Gubaidulina's *Seven Last Words* (1982) has had several performances in this country, but none surely better balanced than here by the conductor Markus Stenz. The religious theme, originally disguised, is typical of the composer's Soviet period, but still

the work is not all retrospection. It takes the form of a seven-movement chamber concerto for cello, accordion and string orchestra. Karine Georgian's big, majestic cello tone and the powerful stinging chords and flashes of silvery brilliance from James Crabb's accordion sustained interest where motifs are used a little repetitively.

Most rewarding of all was the first British performance of *Now Always Snow*, for chamber choir and ensemble. Four of the five movements are settings of evocative poetry by Gennadi Aigi. The short lyrical fragments, woven into rich vocal textures, were sung with feeling and precision by the London Sinfonietta Voices, and the players dispatched the light, fluttering accompaniments with ease. The narrator was Seva Novgorodov.

JOHN ALLISON



The former Lloyds Bank building on the corner of King Street and St James's Street in the heart of London has stood vacant for nearly a decade

The cheque's in the past

Wanted: a new life for thousands of architecturally distinguished old banks. Marcus Binney reports

THE lights burn late in the Old Bank of England, and the east-iron vases outside are flaming like Olympic torches long into the evening. This is the new Fiddlers Ale & Pie House next to the Strand Law Courts in London, and it is one of a growing breed of redundant banks now stylishly transformed into pubs, wine bars and restaurants.

Inside, you no longer tread in fear of the bank manager. The mahogany counters have become bars, swagged curtains fill the huge arched windows and the walls are hung with old prints which seem to include every bank that opened for business in the capital before 1900.

If all this is too logeyish for your taste, walk on to the Kingsway corner of the Aldwych. That is where Bank — the latest London super-diner, seating 200 — has opened in a former NatWest, with columns painted in lurid colours and a cocktail bar as long as any in Manhattan.

Bankers always had the money to build on the best sites in town, often on prominent corners. They liked an air of permanence about their buildings and chose the finest Portland stone and granite, bronze doors and window frames — all to convey the message "your money is safe".

But the banking world is changing fast. With cash machines, telephone and TV banking taking over, different sites are needed. Trevor Fishlock of Barclays says: "Banking is shifting from town centres. We want to be next to Marks & Spencer in good retail pitches." Mike Vertigan of NatWest agrees: "We are piloting branches in shopping centres with nappy-changing facilities and coffee."

Consequently, vast numbers of old banks have been made redundant. Lloyds TSB has disposed of 400 of its 2,800 branches since 1990, and 150 more are in line for closure next year. NatWest has cut back from 3,000 to 2,000 branches in five years and will slim to 1,750 by the millennium. In Scotland, home of the Clydesdale, the Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland, it is the same. John Hume, chief inspector for Historic Scotland, says: "There are numerous empty suburban branches as well as fine headquarters buildings in Edinburgh and Glasgow."

The question is: what will become of these often handsome buildings? In London's fashionable St James's Street, a magnificent Lloyds has stood empty for nearly a decade. At the bottom of Lower Regent Street the former premises of the bankers Cox & Co have stood empty for nearly as long.

Yet overall the picture is encouraging. Matthew Saunders, of the Ancient Monument Society, reports: "There has been an explosion of good uses for banks, from bookshops to pizza parlours. In Hull alone, I saw three conversions which could hardly be faulted."

The pub chain Weatherpoons was the first and the fastest to take on banks, giving them such tongue-in-cheek names as The Standing Order. The Banker's Draft and, opening in Glasgow next month, The Counting House. The company is happy to leave the premises looking like a bank outside. It makes the interior

all the more of a surprise. "We'd willingly open a pub in a bank every day of the week. We have agents looking for sites. They're all centrally located and busy all day long," says the company's Eddie Gershon.

In Brighton, Peppers, in a former NatWest in North Street, is one of a chain of six Whitbread character pubs. The company hopes to open a hundred more. "We seat 150, open for breakfast at eight and serve food all day. We've kept the original pillars inside but split the interior into different levels," says the manager, Joss Wickson.

Others go solo. The architect Annie Duquemin works with her partner from an old Midland Bank in Nottingham. "When we took out the false ceilings we found there was enough height for a mezzanine. We've used a lot of the old fittings and put clear glass in the windows, so it's wonderfully airy, though it also feels very secure," she says. Not far away, another Midland branch has been turned into a wine shop.

The new restaurateurs like the loftiness of banking halls. "We have not had a single application to demolish. The banks don't even object when their buildings are proposed for listing," says Matthew Saunders.

The problem of vacant bank premises is at its most severe in central London. Paul Velluet of English Heritage says: "At the last count there were ten wholly vacant banking halls out of 31 in the heart

of the City. In central London as a whole there are about 40 banks standing empty."

The largest group of empty banking halls is on a site at No 1 Princes Street, which NatWest is seeking to develop behind the facade. Yet round the corner NatWest is busy on a model conversion, turning the banking hall at 41 Lothbury into a public exhibition space.

Paul Velluet points to a problem. "Prestige London banks tend to have only one door onto the street. It's easy enough to find a restaurant or wine bar to take on the banking hall and use the vaults as a kitchen, but it's very difficult to get separate access to the upper floors."

A recent book, *Temples of Mammon*, shows how seriously the high street banks took their architecture from an early date. Banks chose their architects in different ways.

The National Provincial gave virtually all its work between the wars to two salaried architects, F.C.R. Palmer and W.F.C. Holden. The Westminster discovered Septimus Warwick, whose designs were acclaimed at the Royal Academy, and Martin's best work was done by Darcy Braddell.

The Midland used Lutyns and was alone in building many single-storey banks, with a banking hall fronted by lofty columns and nothing above. "We are bankers, not property owners," said its architect, Alfred Gough, who had such confidence in the impregnability of the Midland strong-rooms that he felt that there was no need for anyone to live on the premises.

Architects between the wars doubted whether there was a building that could proclaim by its very look "I am a banking establishment". Yet in the end this has been a strength. Today only the pattern of screw holes in the frieze gives a clue to the familiar name that once announced your money was safe.

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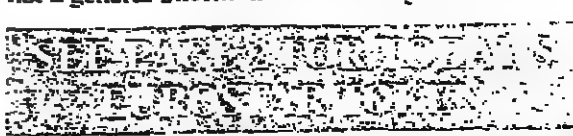
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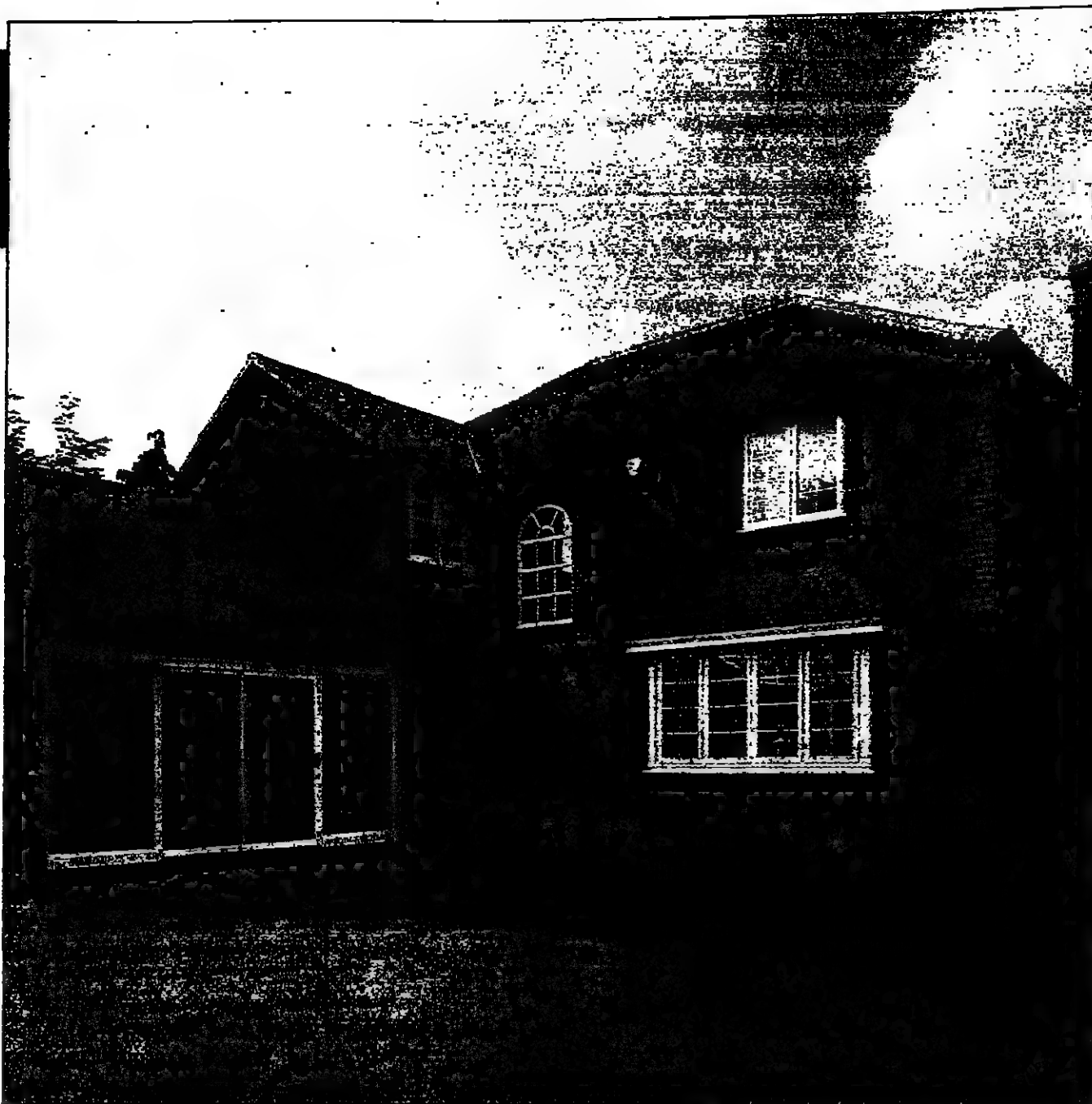
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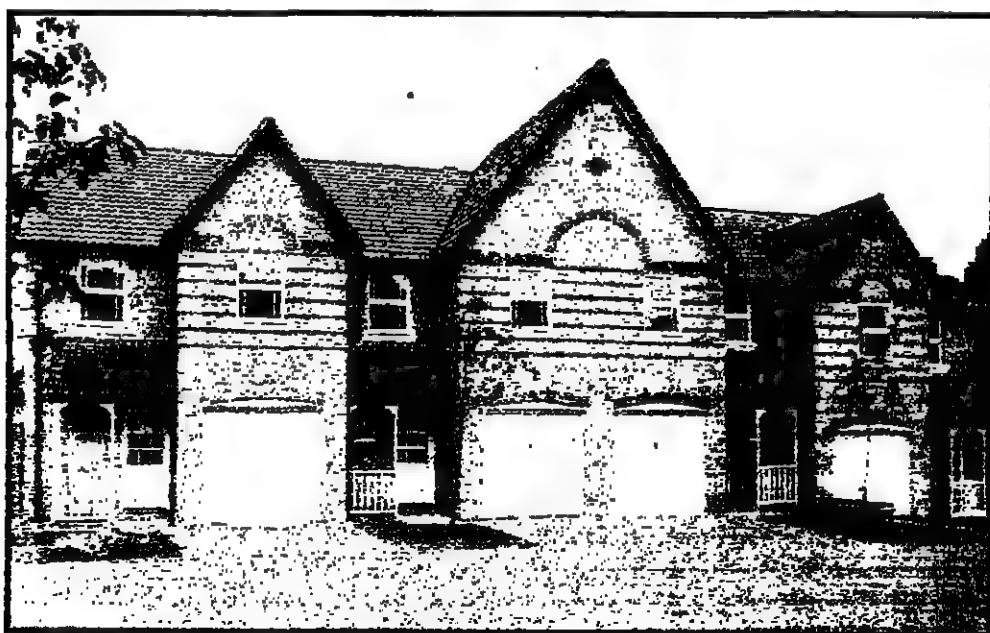
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A modern two bedroom, two bathroom, detached house, with a large living room, a kitchen, a dining room, a study, a terrace, a garden, a garage, and a driveway. Tel: 0171 782 7828



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Top of our range is a 3 bedroom 3 bathroom super luxury villa with tower, that could cost £150,000 elsewhere. £82,900 including large plot.

* At prices and 7% Spanish VAT.

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Algarve, luxury villa with panoramic views over the Algarve. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 car ports, 50% mortgage available subject to status, ideal as a suitable price for investment or holiday home.

On our new urbanisation is our award winning 3 bedroom detached villa. £32,900 including land.

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A limited time offer. 1st January 1997

Freephone 0800 228858 quoting ref RV6
A limited time offer. 1st January 1997

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Chiltern Manor Close. A spectacular gated development featuring a Georgian styled terrace of six 4 bedroom properties facing a landscaped courtyard with stone fountain set in a quadrangle of double detached houses. The properties are located in a 5 1/2 acre of mature parkland with a tennis court. Only two remaining.

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Sligh Mole £395,000-£400,000 01932 576580
Individual executive family homes located in the Surrey area. All houses are built to a high specification and comprise 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 bathrooms, fully fitted designer kitchen, en suite facilities and garages.

SUSSEX

Ringfield £395,000-£400,000 01405 211230
Kingsfield Park. A development of individually styled 4 and 5 bedroom family homes in a popular village location between Hove and Ditching close to the Surrey Hills on the Surrey/Sussex border. New show house now open.

LONDON

Hillm, SW5 From £245,000 01628 770070
Hurlingham Reach. A superb development of two 2 bedroom apartments and 2 bedroom townhouses with basement parking. The apartments feature terraces and balconies and all have views of the River Thames.

Pinner, SW15

Pinner, SW15 From £277,800 01628 770070
Dunrobin Place. A superb development of only a short walk from good shops and restaurants, these 4 bedroom town houses have been meticulously designed using brick detailing, rendered facades, ironwork and attractive pillared entrances. The high specification includes luxury kitchens and bathrooms and appealing bay windows to drawing rooms and master bedrooms. Only three remaining.

Wimbledon, SW19

Wimbledon, SW19 £275,000-£425,000 01932 576580
Merton Lodge. A superb development of three one 1, 2 and 3 bedroom luxury apartments located close to the heart of Wimbledon Village. The development features secure underground car parking and a fully equipped gymnasium.

* show house or sales centre open daily from 10am

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RACING: WEIGHT RANGE INCREASED TO ENCOURAGE MORE COMPETITIVE FIELD FOR AINTREE SPECTACULAR

BHB acts to protect popularity of National

By JULIAN MUSCAT

RACING'S rulers have taken steps to protect the popularity of the Martell Grand National by widening the parameters which entitle horses to contest the Aintree spectacular.

In an effort to counter last year's disappointing entry, when 27 horses from a maximum field of 40 faced the starter, the British Horse-racing Board (BHB) has lowered the minimum rating qualification and increased the burden carried by the top-weight. The latter condition will also apply in all handicaps of 34 miles and beyond.

From January 1, the best horse entered for such handi-



Last season's Martell Grand National winner, Rough Quest, poses with his trainer, Terry Casey, left, and owner, Andrew Wates, right

caps will be allocated 12st, as opposed to 11st 10lb. And should the weights require raising due to defections, the topweight will carry 11st 10lb, as opposed to 11st 7lb. At the other end of the scale, the minimum qualification for entry has been reduced by 10lb to include horses officially assessed at 10.

These subtle but important changes to the Grand National conditions should increase field sizes in two respects. The greater weight assigned to the highest-rated horse will allow more horses

to run off their proper handicap rating, in the process making the race more competitive. And the lowering of the minimum standard makes more horses eligible for entry.

Charles Barnett, managing director at Aintree, said yesterday: "Our objective is to attract class horses while at the same time producing a field as close as possible to the safety factor of 40." The measures have become necessary on account of dramatic changes to the National's profile in recent years.

The softening of Aintree's once-formidable obstacles has encouraged connections of the

best steeplechasers to target the race. This has forced more and more horses to compete from out of the handicap, particularly as the sport has witnessed a steep decline in the number of high-class chasers.

John Smees, an executive from the BHB's race-planning department, estimated that the average rating attained by chasers over the last five years has regressed by 15lb.

Overall, 299 chasers qualified for last year's season's Grand National. The effect of lowering the minimum rating by 10lb would have made a further 163 chasers eligible.

The minimum rating was introduced six years ago after the fate of horses totally unsuited to the demands of Aintree effectively brought the race into disrepute.

Barnett said yesterday: "These safeguards must be maintained. The new rating still protects this objective while offering more National

types the chance of entering." The industry-wide belief was that the minimum rating had been pitched too high.

Prize money for the Grand National on April 5 has been raised to an estimated value of £300,000. Over £830,000 will be on offer over the future. Martell, whose Grand National backing won the International Sponsorship of Sport award at the inaugural convention in Geneva last month, will inject close to £500,000 into the three-day meeting.

Rough Quest, who prevailed over Encore Un Peu in a tense finish seven months ago, again has the 4½-mile chase on his agenda. Terry Casey, who trains the horse, said yesterday: "Rough Quest's targets for the season are the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National. Before that, we hope to run him in the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day."

Casey plans to run Rough Quest, who sustained minor tendon damage last month, at Cheltenham on December 13. "That looks the logical place to start the season," he said, "but he won't go unless we are totally satisfied with him. We are not obsessed by the King George." He added he would be happy to saddle Rough Quest at Aintree if the ten-year-old was allocated the new maximum impost of 12st.

IN BRIEF

Milkins is poised to upset Hendry

STEPHEN HENDRY, the holder, faced unexpectedly spirited opposition when he was held 4-4 by Robert Milkins, the world No 23, in the second round of the United Kingdom championship at Preston Guild Hall yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

The world champion, attempting to extend his unbeaten sequence in this event to 14 matches, again exhibited the inconsistency that contributed to many anxious moments before he beat Dominic Dale 9-6 in the first round on Saturday.

Hendry lost the second frame on the pink after missing a straightforward green, but threatened to establish a sizeable overnight advantage when he forged 4-1 ahead with runs of 74, 82 and 108.

However, the Scot's form dipped considerably in the closing three frames of the session as Milkins gave himself the opportunity to cause a major upset when the best-of-17-frames contest reaches its conclusion this afternoon.

Paul Hunter, a promising 15-year-old from Leeds, who whitewashed Willie Thorne 9-0 in the previous round, put together runs of 100 and 136 in consecutive frames on the way to building a 5-3 lead over James Wattana, of Thailand.

Gallian stays

Cricket: Jason Gallian, the Lancashire batsman, has been spared the disappointment of withdrawing from the England tour of Australia after specialists confirmed that his finger injury would not restrict his future participation on the remainder of the trip.

Gallian has been little more than a spectator after sustaining two separate finger injuries in the three weeks since the party arrived. He injured the little finger on his right hand fielding in the opening defeat against a New South Wales XI in Tamworth, which ruled him out of the games against South Australia, but he recovered in time for the match against the Australian Cricket Academy.

His contribution, however, was minimal after being hit on the index finger of the same hand in the first innings. He was unable to field for either of the Academy's innings and was not needed to bat again.

Boniol kicks in

American football: Chris Boniol equalled a National Football League record as the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Green Bay Packers 21-6 on Monday. Boniol joins Jim Bakken, of the St Louis Cardinals, and Rich Karlis, of the Minnesota Vikings, as the only players to kick seven field goals in a game.

Law leaves

Cricket: Danny Law, the all-rounder, became the second Sussex player to leave the club within the week yesterday. Law, 21, has joined Essex on a three-year contract, following Ian Salisbury, the leg spinner, now with Surrey. Law had been with the club since he was 13.

Pendrigh wins

Real tennis: Nigel Pendrigh triumphed in a tense five-set match against Andrew Lyons in his opening match of the British Lamb British Open Championship, at Queen's Club. Pendrigh dropped the first two sets, but after taking the third set, he began cutting the ball to an immaculate length and dropped just two more games as he clinched the match.

New coach

Hockey: Jon Royce, head of PE at Kingston Grammar School, will coach the England team that is to play in the six-nation Golden Jubilee tournament in Karachi, Pakistan, from March 16 to 25, 1997. It is a temporary appointment but Royce has been confirmed as coach of the England Under-21 team for the Junior World Cup in September next year.

China rally

Badminton: A surprise defeat for Peter Knowles, who begins the defence of his Scottish Open title in Glasgow tomorrow, made sure that the result of England's six-match series with China would not be decided until the final match in Sheffield last night. England's series lead, once 3-0, was reduced to 2-2 after a 4-1 defeat at Mansfield on Monday night.

Full service expected to be resumed today

HOPES are high that normal service can be resumed today despite the first cold snap of the winter. Each of the three tracks scheduled to race has missed the worst of the weather, which made yesterday's Wetherby card the first casualty of the National Hunt season.

No problems are expected at Haydock, which sees the reappearance of last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup third, Count Be Better, in the Edward Hamner Memorial Chase. "There is a slight snow and it is thoroughly unpleasant but we have had

no snow and no frost," Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, said.

Conditions are similar at Hereford, where the clerk of the course, John Williams, said: "We had a bare covering of snow but it went in ten minutes. There should be no problems in the slightest."

At Kempton a course spokesman explained: "We had quite a bit of snow but nothing settled because it was raining too. No inspection is planned."

However, Charlie Brooks is taking no chances over a prep race for his

Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup hope, Sunny Bay, whom he has declared for both the Limer Hill Chase at Kempton and the Edward Hamner at Haydock. A spokeswoman for Brooks explained: "The first preference for Sunny Bay is Kempton, but just in case Kempton is off, his second preference is at Haydock."

Wetherby was called off because of heavy snow just before the first race yesterday, with the northern jockeys' safety officer, Mark Dwyer, saying: "The abandonment was a formality."

KEMPTON PARK

12.50 Nothing Doing, 1.20 Feel The Power, 1.50 Royal Event, 2.20 Old Bridge, 2.50 High Grade, 3.20 Berude Not To, 3.50 Fiddler's Leap.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.20 SUNNY BAY.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.50 LUDGROVE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' MOVIES

HANDICAP HURDLE (21.50; 2m) (5 runners)
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-12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'Tigermania' quick to take hold Down Under

Patricia Davies meets the young American stealing the limelight from Greg Norman at the Australian Open

The man is unreal. He is barely out of his teens, but he conducts himself with a poise that men many years his senior never acquire. He is just a golfer, a professional for less than three months, but already he is threatening to transcend his sport. He is tall, dark, handsome, articulate, smart, rich (his deals with Nike and Titleist are worth some \$60 million), has a smile that will turn many a female knee to jelly, is not afraid to speak his mind and has just hit Australia.

Tiger Woods is the name of this paragon and the 20-year-old American, who has won twice in his few weeks on the US PGA Tour, earning \$790,000, is the main man at the Holden Australian Open, which starts at The Australian club, in Sydney, tomorrow. It is his first trip overseas as a professional — he was paid about \$250,000 to come — and if the advance publicity is anything to go by, he was worth every cent.

Even Greg Norman, the world No 1 and the icon of Oz, has been eclipsed and he does not mind a bit. "I think Tigermania is wonderful," he said. "It's good for the Australian public. If 10,000 people watch him and just a hundred or so watch me, that's fine. Tiger's taken the world by storm and I'm going to enjoy it and let him have all the attention."

That does not bother Woods, who faced the massed ranks of the media with aplomb, answering questions with courtesy and humour. "I think all the attention is because of what I've done lately — winning my third US Amateur and doing what I've done on tour. I'm a fresh face and the media and the fans have jumped on that, but it's not a big deal. You've just got to be honest and be yourself."

He was also unfazed when questioned about appearance money. "I think it's a good thing if you know that the player that you are getting is trying 110 per cent to win. I haven't come here to play for the gallery," he stressed.

Woods, who drew a sizeable crowd to watch him hit 300-yard drives in the pro-am yesterday, added: "It's awful



Woods explodes from a bunker during a practice round at Sydney yesterday

like that people come out and watch but I'm here to do my job."

Woods tends to win with style. Although lightly built, he hits the ball further than anyone else and the galleries gawp. He averaged 309 yards on the US Tour statistics, about 25 yards beyond John Daly, with renowned hitters like Norman, Fred Couples and Tom Watson lagging even further behind. That gets people's attention.

Then there is his colour. In a predominantly white sport, Woods is not white. He is an exotic mixture of mainly African-American (his father) and Thai (his mother). He has had hate mail because of his colour but regards that as a bonus because it means his success is making people think.

His first Nike ads made race an issue — "There are still courses where I am not welcome because of the colour of

my skin. Are you ready for me world?" — and Woods has every intention of being a force for change, to broaden the reach of the game he loves with a passion. "My parents taught me that you can't side on the grey area," he said.

This week, however, his attention is on the golf. If people's expectations of him are high, they are more than matched by his own. He had an air shot in practice — "Some of the places I put myself in, I'm susceptible to doing that," he smiled — but few doubt his ability to cope with a new continent and an unfamiliar golf course.

Twenty years ago, Norman, then 21, played in his first Australian Open at this course. He was paired with Jack Nicklaus and hit his opening drive into a bush — "Thank God it's gone now," he said — and did not break 80.

"I was nervous and everybody had built me up and I was just humiliated in front of the greatest golfer ever put on this planet," Norman recalled. "I guess I hadn't played long enough to be humble."

So far, Woods, who gave up his degree course at Stanford to play the tour, has had little to be humble about, but he is acutely aware of his good fortune. "I'm very lucky to be doing something I love to do, getting paid to do it and having all these extra perks. Not too many people when they wake up in the morning can't wait to get to their job," he said.

If he has flaws — and he is only human, after all — they seem to amount to little more than a lack of culinary adventure (McDonald's is his restaurant of choice), a degree of youthful certitude and the odd wayward drive. The world might not be ready for that.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Two codes explore new share options

By Christopher Irvine

AS THE two rugby codes forge closer links, Wigan and Wasps have held exploratory talks about the joint funding of transfer signings. Under a proposed arrangement, players will play rugby union for half the year and rugby league the other half with the contract costs split between the clubs.

It is a proposal fraught with difficulties, not least because of doubts about the capability of players to flit between the two sports, yet Vaea Tuigamala is one of those proving that it is at least physically possible. The dual international Western Samoa centre is due back at Wigan in January, from his loan spell in union, but Wasps want him to return next season, permanently if possible.

Tuigamala's position at Wigan, where he is contracted to stay for another two years, was the subject of discussions last week between Chris Wright, who has sunk £3.5 million into Wasps, and Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman. The idea is that, together, both clubs could attract leading players from either code, in joint deals, similar to the one in which Bedford and London Broncos now own Martin Offiah.

Wigan are also continuing talks with Dave Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic Football Club, about a sale of Central Park for more than £4 million, which would end the club's immediate money worries.

The Rugby Football League remains anxious to cut off the supply of players to union on short-term winter contracts next year. It hopes to achieve this by a longer season. The 22-team world club championship, which will be jointly launched today in Leeds and Sydney, will not finish until the end of October, when Australia are due to tour Britain.

Work starts today on a new £8 million, 14,000-capacity stadium at Widnes. Only the changing rooms and boardroom at Naughton Park will survive the redevelopment. The crowd limit will be reduced to 3,500 for the first three months of next season.

Mercenaries fated to fall foul of itchy feet

Great God, this is an awful place," Captain Scott wrote in his Antarctic diary. But his problems were as nothing compared with those of Andrea, girlfriend of Emerson, one of the trio of Brazilian footballers signed by the Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson.

"The moment I saw Middlesbrough I felt it was a strange, terrible place," she said. "It seemed so dark and quiet outside and it was always windy and raining." And so she has remained in Rio, while Emerson returned to do battle with the dark.

We live in an era of globalisation and, as ever, it is sport that dramatises this truth. Thus Terry Venables, the former England football coach, has decided to follow the time-honoured route from law court to Australia.

The globalisation of sport is one of the facts of modern life: there were 197 nations present in the global Olympic Village in Atlanta this summer. The other week, India played Pakistan in a series of one-day cricket matches in Toronto, of all places.

Nobody went to watch, of course, but they wouldn't, would they? Never mind, the odd billion or so saw the cricket on television back home in Asia. India-Pakistan cricket galvanises the sub-continent, but needs neutral ground, usually Sharjah, to dilute the hostility. The Toronto series was called, by someone with a robust if unsuitable sense of humour, the Friendship Cup.

Globalising sport means globalising its superstars, and this is a harder business. For even in the boldest of travellers, the most independent of souls, there lies a streak of the provincial, the homebody.

So poor Andrea expresses her preference for Rio over Middlesbrough and most of us who love to sneer at unglamorous provincial towns make the required jokes.

But I recall five of the strangest days of my life. I was in Rio and the weather was awfully nice, and yet I wanted, not to be in Middlesbrough, but certainly in Hertfordshire.

I was stuck in a currency collapse, unable to travel a yard, waiting for a plane to take me to Barbados for the cricket. I had no story to write, knew no one and had nothing to do. I ask for no pity, I was not even overtly miserable, but it was a long, bizarre moment of perfect dislocation.

And had you told me that if I pressed a certain button I would instantly be beamed up to Hertfordshire, I would have damn near broken my finger on it. Andrea, I, in Rio and in lovely weather, foreknow your sufferings in darkest Middlesbrough.

Perhaps it is, above all, the dark that gets people. No wonder the most successful

footballing imports to this country tend to be Scandinavian: compared with their own benighted climes, places such as Middlesbrough must seem havens of light and sun and joy.

Perhaps reading a few of Strindberg's observations on married life would have cheered Andrea up. Or perhaps all she needed was a few Edward Munch reproductions: a couple of minutes daily contemplation of *The Scream* would surely make Teesside seem more like the Copacabana.

But the more satellites, telephones and jumbo jets make the globalisation of sport a reality, the greater the plague of dislocated superstars, holed up in hotels or rented houses, with huge telephone bills and with colleagues and agents instead of friends, interviews and meetings. Instead of conversations.

"I pity the poor immigrant," Bob Dylan sang, "without family or friends, who falls in love with wealth itself..."

And wealth, of course, is the rub. So here, for the benefit of all superstars who are planning the next step of their brilliant careers, is Barnes's Cut Out and Keep Guide to Globalisation. And it has but a single point: don't do it for the money.

This may sound a touch silly, since the reason for such a dislocating wrench is to further your career. But there are two ways of looking at a career: a purely fiscal matter, or an exhilarating aspect of your progress through life.

I was a poor immigrant myself once. Through general mismanagement and incompetence, I managed to find myself 8,000 miles from home without money or job. But I had not gone for money. I had gone for the adventure. I set off with a small sum of money, I returned four years on with rather less. But the adventure left its mark on me, it made me the burn I am today.

We can turn on the television and see sport from all over the world. Everywhere the cameras turn, they are kicking footballs, every nation looks, through the tube, to be dizzyingly familiar, the only difference the shade of green they play on. Yet the difference between place and place is as colossal as it ever was.

Globalisation is part fact, part myth, and for the athlete eager to cash in on his talent before the hamstring twangs its last twang, it can be a terrible trap.

Football may be the world's Esperanto, but that does not stop footballers, and more especially their families, from being bitterly unhappy.

Go west, or east, or north, or south, young man, but only do so if you have adventure in your heart. If it is not an adventure, it is a prison sentence: for globalisation is one more brilliant illusion of the flickering screen.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

SAVINGS ON HOTELS FOR EUROSTAR TRAVELLERS

Today *The Times* has yet another fabulous offer to make your Eurostar trip more enjoyable — exclusive discounts on hotels in Paris, Brussels or Lille.

We have linked up with Cresta, the UK's leading short break specialist, to offer readers travelling on our free Eurostar ticket a choice of more than 100 hotels with a range of star ratings and prices to suit every taste and budget. You can stay for as long or as short a time as you wish and many of the hotels offer you the chance to stay for three nights for the price of two.

You could stay in Paris from as little as £23 per person per night at the Amarys Simart, a superior one-star hotel or at the world-famous four-star George V from £126 per person per night. Lille offers the four-star Alliance, a converted 17th century convent, from £43 per person per night. And in Brussels the five-star Meridien near the Grand Place is included from £56 per person per night.

For queries about your Eurostar information pack call 01293 527 222, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. Please note that this is not a general information or booking line.

Attach 18 differently numbered Eurostar tokens from *The Times* and three from *The Sunday Times*. Send all 21 tokens with this completed form to: *The Times/The Sunday Times Free Eurostar Ticket Offer*, Unit 18, Royce Road, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 2NX. Closing date for applications is Monday, December 9, 1996. Please indicate which free Time Out guide you would like: ☐ PARIS ☐ BELGIUM

Please send me the hotel discounts brochure I enclose a further three special tokens (tick) ☐

It would help us if you would answer these four questions:

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If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by Times Newspapers, please tick ☐



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CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Some years ago one of Zia Mahmood's "Bols tips" was "if they don't cover, they haven't got it". That was the clue to the successful line in the hand today.

Dealer South	Game all	Rubber bridge
♠ 8 9	♠ 10 9 8	♠ 10 9 8
♥ A J 4 2	♥ A J 4 2	♥ A J 4 2
♦ K Q 8 5	♦ K Q 8 5	♦ K Q 8 5
♣ 10 4 2	♣ 10 4 2	♣ 10 4 2
♠ K J 8 5 4	♠ K J 8 5 4	♠ K J 8 5 4
♥ 10 8 6	♥ 10 8 6	♥ 10 8 6
♦ J 6	♦ J 6	♦ J 6
♣ 7 6 3	♣ 7 6 3	♣ 7 6 3

S	W	N	E
1 NT (1)	Pass	2 C (2)	Pass
3 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass

Contract: 3 NT by South Lead: Five of spades

(1) 15 — 17 (2) Stayman

Unless they contrive to block the suit, the defence have at least four tricks in spades, so the problem is the best way for declarer to make an immediate nine tricks. You might like to consider:

a) the best technical line, before reading on.
b) the best psychological line, to test the diamonds, finishing in dummy. If the diamonds do not divide, you need four tricks in clubs. Play the ten, intending to run it if East plays small. If the diamonds are worth four tricks, cash the ace of clubs and, if an honour drops, continue with a second high club. If only two tricks

are available in clubs, take the heart finesse. Here, that would fail.

When this hand was played in the TGR £10 game, Brian Jackson, the declarer, eschewed the technical stuff and went for the psychological line. At trick two, he led the queen of hearts. When West played low, Jackson took the view that he was unlikely to have the king, so he rose with the ace. Now, needing at least three tricks in clubs, he ran the ten. He had taken a line which was technically only a 25 per cent chance, as compared with the 50 per cent heart finesse; but it was the one that worked.

Robert Sheehan writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

IMAGO

a. A mirage
b. A Roman bust
c. A perfect insect

VIRAGO

a. A man from long ago
b. A whirlwind
c. A bad-tempered woman

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Elite review Today I continue my review of elite tournaments of the past which might challenge the Las Palmas event, starting on December 8, for the accolade for strongest tournament of all time.

Having dominated his rivals at the two great tournaments of 1895-96 and St Petersburg 1914, the amazing Emanuel Lasker, then 55 years old, also took clear first at New York in 1924. As at St Petersburg ten years earlier, he again outdistanced Capablanca, Alekhine and Marshall, as well as other star players such as Reti, Maroczy, Bogolyubov and Tartakower.

In the following game the great Alekhine is strategically outgunned at every stage. White: Alexander Alekhine Black: Emanuel Lasker New York 1924

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4	d5
2 c4	e6
3 Nf3	Nf6
4 Nc3	Nbd7
5 e3	e5
6 Bf4	c5
7 e3	Nf5
8 Bg3	Nf4
9 e4	Bg6
10 g3	O-O
11 O-O	Re8
12 Qc2	Nf8
13 Nd1	Kf6
14 Na3	Bg6
15 Nh4	Bc7
16 b4	Bb6
17 N3	Bf7

White to play. This position is from the game Keene — Mestel, Esbjerg 1981. White is threatened with mate in one. What is the best way to deal with this?

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Keene — Mestel, Esbjerg 1981. White is threatened with mate in one. What is the best way to deal with this?

Solution on page 50

Solution on page 50

Schoolboy's strike puts him in a different class

With due consideration for the efforts of Best, Lee and Boniek, Michael Henderson makes a surprisingly scholarly selection



I ever saw

Who can select confidently the goal of a lifetime? The best of anything, like the worst, is shaped by taste and first-hand experience. Alistair Cooke once wrote that what we see tends to confirm our opinions, not change them, and he was not far out. It would be hard to admit that Arsenal have ever scored a good goal, others might be more tolerant.

One rule must surely be observed: to have witnessed the goal with one's own eyes. The best ones exist in memory, and need not be authenticated by lens or camera. They acquire a fresh layer of imagination every time they are recalled, which may not be strictly truthful. But the literal truth is not strictly the point.

Having spent the first year of my footballing life, so to speak, at Burnden Park, Bolton, Francis Lee features prominently in my list. There was a daisy-cut towards the end of a night match against

Millwall in 1966, as the crowd was filling out, and there was a ferocious shot against Huddersfield Town from 30, probably 35, yards.

Years later, in December 1975 to be precise, Sam Allardyce met a corner with a header from around the penalty spot that nearly unhinged the netting in the Sunderland goal. That was memorable, and so was Frank Worthington's swivel and volley in 1979, after an extraordinary juggle with his back to the Ipswich Town goal.

Nobody who was at Maine Road in 1970 will ever forget Jimmy Greaves' debut for West Ham United, who won 5-1. That was the afternoon Ronnie Boyce returned Joe Corrigan's punt downfield with a half-volley from the centre circle that reached the Manchester City goal before Corrigan had returned to tend it. What a fool he looked!

A year later, in November 1971, Mike Summerbee tied a

Manchester derby at 3-3 in the last minute with a shot into the same goal. Summerbee did not score many goals, but this was a better, bringing to a climax the finest match I can recall. Sammy McIlroy, a strip of a lad at 17, opened the scoring for United on his debut, from a pass by George Best.

Two months earlier, Best had scored the goal of his life, against Sheffield United at Old Trafford. I remember hearing it described at the time on the radio, probably by Maurice Edelman, and it was almost as good as being there. But I wasn't, so it doesn't count. Neither does Eddie Gray's astonishing individual goal against Burnley, after he had dribbled past six or seven defenders, nor Ernie Hunt's free kick for Coventry City

against Everton, after Willie Carr had scooped the ball up between his boots. We talked about that at school for weeks, and practised it as well, without much success.

Two really great goals commend themselves. Lee's return to Maine Road in early 1975,

as a Derby County player, is well-known. He scored the winner in a 2-1 victory, cutting in from the left touchline to shoot into the far corner and send Barry Davies, the television commentator, into some far-away verbal galaxy: "Just look at his face!" Derby won the championship that season, and Lee, released by City the previous August, played a significant part in their triumph.

Zbigniew Boniek, the Pole, was another marvellous striker of the ball. In March 1983, I travelled on spec to Birmingham to watch the European champions, as Aston Villa were then, play Juventus. The Italians won 2-1 but it was not even close. Michael Platini, a truly great player, was in his pomp and delivered the best pass I have

ever seen, with the outside of his right foot, for Boniek to volley Juventus's second. Boniek had done nothing until that point, and did little afterwards. It was a magnificent goal.

Yet the man who claims my prize was not a professional at all. Tim Turner was a gifted schoolboy at Repton, poached — like many a teenage player before him — by "Scot" Cheshire, the master of Brook House, who supported Chelsea and later wrote a history of the club. Scotty was one of the men who made public schools great, and his house never knowingly turned out a duff cricket or football team.

Turner came from Cheshire, where his father had apparently established the first Toyota dealership in England, and in November 1974, he scored a wonderful solo goal on a frozen pitch to win a senior house match. In the same team was one Charles Sale, who instructed

his team-mates at one point to "get a grip, we're letting Henderson run this match, setting standards of veracity he maintains to this day as a sportsman on *The Express*."

The execution of Turner's goal, as he kept his footing on the treacherous surface to shoot beyond a hapless goalkeeper, has come back to haunt me in recent years. It serves as a reminder of the pain of defeat, something reporters often overlook in their cold summaries of matches, and of how good even the most ordinary pro is. Turner was a good enough batsman to come Cheltenham College for a big hundred that summer, and a pretty decent footballer, but he never went beyond that level.

So there it is, a goal to remember. I was not "on target" that day but if anybody wants to know about the senior house match final the following year, there's a tale worth telling.

TENNIS

Outspoken Smith to lead from the front

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SAM SMITH, of Essex, who upset Lawn Tennis Association officials at Telford last week by suggesting that women's tennis in Britain was in a bad way, will lead the British squad in the European team championships at Redbridge Sports Centre this weekend.

The British No 1 will be joined by Clare Wood, national champion on three occasions, Megan Miller, 19, of Yorkshire, and Rachel Violler, of Lancashire.

Britain, who are in the first division, will compete against Poland, Denmark and Spain, with the winners of the group, played on a round-robin format, gaining promotion to the champions' division. The second team in the group remain in the first division with the bottom two being relegated.

Smith and Wood both played in the competition last year, when Britain finished second to Slovakia. Smith will definitely play at first string but Ann Jones, the team captain, may not decide on the second singles player until she has seen her team in practice.

Violler, daughter of the former Manchester United footballer, Dennis Violler, has a higher world ranking than Wood, but has not been in such good form recently.

Sweden have named an unchanged team for the Davis Cup final against France, which will be Stefan Edberg's last professional appearance. Edberg's colleagues are Thomas Enqvist, the world No 9, and the doubles specialists, Nicklas Kulti and Jonas Bjorkman.

BOXING

Ayers must take the initiative

MICHAEL AYERS, the British lightweight champion, from Tooting, meets Colin Dunne, of Holloway, in a bout that could turn out to be "the fight of the year", at the Wembley Conference Centre tonight (Srikumar Sen writes).

Even though the men have had almost the same number of contests — Ayers 22 and Dunne 21 — Ayers, aged 31, is the more experienced. He challenged a good champion in Giovanni Parisi, of Italy, for the World Boxing Organisation title and got a good account of himself. He won the British title by stopping Paul Burke in six rounds and disposed of three challengers inside the distance.

Dunne, 26, is unbeaten with 16 of his bouts ending inside the distance. While his opponents have not been quite of the same quality as those of Ayers, he has one impressive result, beating Jonathan Thaxton in five rounds when boxing for the southern area title.

Stamina is very likely to be the decisive factor in the bout. Ayers is believed to be having trouble making the weight and Dunne has an incredible work rate that could have Ayers in trouble if he does not take control in the first half.

Joe Calzaghe, the unbeaten Welsh super-middleweight, of whom great things are expected, has decided to leave Micky Duff, his manager, and box on Frank Warren's promotions. Calzaghe's contract has nine months to run with Duff, who has put the matter in the hands of his solicitors.

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Keane marches in as Ferguson's soldier of fortune

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE ability of Manchester United to stay in the European Cup Champions' League, which generates little short of £100 million, could rest on the immense hunger of Roy Keane in their midfield, on the slender stealth of Alan Boksic in the attack of Juventus, the European Cup holders... but ultimately on the psychological games the managers play.

Alex Ferguson and his Juventus counterpart, Marcello Lippi, are agreed on one factor, that Keane, who missed the first encounter between their teams, which the Italians won, in Turin, in September, is the "soldier", or the "soul" of United's endeavour. Lippi, his arrangements distracted by a late arrival in the north of England caused by the harsh blast of winter yesterday, has lately proved a master of the art of sterility. His Juventus side, virtually rebuilt in the summer, has conceded seven goals in nine games in Serie A so far this season, but scored only 11. That speaks of the dreaded hand of caution; the overbearing organisation for which Italian champions were once renowned.

Which Juventus is coming to Old Trafford tonight? The one that beat Rapid Vienna 5-0 in the last round of Champions' League matches, or the one that surrendered 3-0 to Internazionale on home territory in the Coppa Italia on Wednesday?

That defeat was, of course, contrived. Juventus put out half a team, clearly revealing their priority, and gave back to basics with a scoreless home draw against AC Milan, on Sunday night. Thus, they lost momentum time compared to United, whose 1-0 victory over Arsenal arrested their most distressing sequence of the past two decades.

However, with Juventus, it is all about motivation. They need just one point to be mathematically sure of reach-

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	4	3	1	0	8	4	10
Man Utd	4	2	0	2	4	2	6
Real Madrid	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Rapido	4	0	2	2	2	6	2

RESULTS: Juventus 1 Manchester United 0. Rapid Vienna 1 Fiorentina 1. Manchester United 2 Rapid Vienna 0. Fiorentina 0 Juventus 1. Rapid Vienna 1 Juventus 1. Fiorentina 0 Manchester United 2. Juventus 5 Rapid Vienna 0. Manchester United 0 Fiorentina 1.

MATCHES TO COME: Today: Manchester United v Juventus, Fiorentina v Rapid Vienna. Day 4: Rapid Vienna v Manchester United, Juventus v Fiorentina.

ing the quarter-finals, are preparing for a separate visit to Tokyo, where they meet River Plate, of Argentina, for the World Club Championship next Tuesday. Prestige does not pay nearly so many bills as the real thing in Europe.

Yet the onus is on United to attack the game, to show patience if Juventus frustrate them, but surely to be more courageous than in Turin, where they fired not one shot on goal.

There, Eric Cantona was a forlorn and isolated figure, snuffed out by the centre backs, Paolo Montero and Ciro Ferrara. "When I saw Cantona waving his arms and calling for support," Lippi said, "I knew it was going well for us." He also knew, when Ryan Giggs was withdrawn, blamed by his manager for loose passing, that United had lost self-belief.

Curiously, apart from the

recall of Keane after suspension, Ferguson has gone to considerable lengths to praise the penetration, the electric runs, of Giggs. "Those runs with the ball tied to his feet excite you," Ferguson said on Saturday. "He lifts the spirit, ignites the crowd." Psychology? Ferguson is clever enough at it to have built an almost peerless decade for himself at Old Trafford. Thus, he suggests it will do his team good to have to be better for having lost their unbeaten home record in Europe.

The Manchester United manager talks with passion of the need for the 50,000-plus crowd, even the freeholders in the hospitality boxes, to let the Italians hear their voices. In return, Keane will respond with equal passion.

Providing he keeps it within bounds and stays on the field, Keane will be charged with suppressing the whiplash passing of Zinedine Zidane and Didier Deschamps, the Frenchman not at all put down by Cantona's derogatory description of him as "a water-carrier."

Keep the French quiet, stifle Juventus, and still you must baffle the elegance of Alessandro Del Piero and the Croatian, Boksic.

He is a man for the European nights. While Lippi has rotated his full squad of 20 players in four European games, he cannot resist the scoring potency of Boksic, who has scored eight times in 16 European games, including the final itself, for Olympique Marseille. In Europe this season he has scored the solitary winner against United, the solitary winner against Fiorentina, and two of the five against Juventus.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-1): 1) P. Schuster — 2) G. Neville, D. Webb, R. Johnson, D. Jones, P. Heffernan, N. Butt, R. Keane, R. Giggs — 3) C. Cantona — 4) O. Solskjaer.

JUVENTUS (probable, 4-4-1): 1) M. Tardelli, P. Montero, C. Ferrara, G. Pesotto — 2) A. Di Lorenzo, D. Deschamps, A. Bocsic, V. Agostini (for C. Vieri), A. Del Piero. Referee: J. Escobar (Spain).

Liverpool's eyes on the summit

LIVERPOOL, who will go to the top of the FA Carling Premiership if they win the Merseyside derby at Anfield tonight, have not beaten Everton in their last four meetings. A trend that Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, is understandably keen to reverse.

"On one hand we've got to make sure we don't get too carried away by the occasion, but on the other we have to show passion and pride, especially after last year when Everton beat us at home," he said yesterday.

Andrei Kanchelskii, who scored both Everton's goals at Anfield last season, is a certain starter, but Joe Royle, the Everton manager, is not completely sold on retaining an unchanged side, despite the 7-1 win over Southampton on Saturday, and may find room for Duncan Ferguson.

Pressman backs overseas aid

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THEY may not rival the likes of Vialli, Zola and Ravanelli in terms of status or earnings, but Sheffield Wednesday's imported players could help their club to a place in Europe, according to Kevin Pressman, the Wednesday goalkeeper.

Orlando Trustfull, Wednesday's Dutch midfielder player, and Benito Carbone, their Italian playmaker, scored their first FA Carling Premiership goals on Monday night in a 2-0 victory over Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough that ended a run of ten league and cup games without a win. With Regi Blinker, Trustfull's compatriot, also excelling by setting up chances from the wing, Pressman believes that Wednesday can now challenge for a UEFA Cup place.

"Regi did well last year, while Orlando and Benny have come in this season, and all three have settled in very quickly," Pressman said, after watching Mark Crossley, his

opposite number, keep Forest in a contest in which they were second best throughout.

"Benny has settled down very quickly, and has shown that he is a top-class performer. It's now just a question of getting that consistency and making sure that we grind out the results when we aren't playing so well."

"We've just lacked that killer instinct, because we have been playing well recently, but it was important that we started winning again. Now we can start looking to build, and a European place is something we've got to aim for because it's so tight at the moment."

Forest have now gone 12 Premiership matches without a win since their opening-day success away to Coventry City, and have scored just ten league goals. Crossley admits that the team is going through a crisis of confidence. "It's all about getting that win to restore our belief," he said. "It

will probably come with a lucky 1-0 win, but we will take anything at the moment."

Training is the same as ever and the spirit is good, but when we get out on the park we struggle, and it's something we've got to solve quickly."

Wednesday, meanwhile, have been worried by news that Wayne Collins, their midfielder player, may need surgery to repair the groin problem that has sidelined him for nine matches.

Collins, a summer signing from Crewe Alexandra, was influential as Wednesday opened the season with four successive victories, but was injured when Arsenal inflicted their first defeat in mid-September. He came through two reserve-team matches last week, but has since felt a reaction, and David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said that Collins may now need an operation.

FOR THE RECORD

<p>AMERICAN FOOTBALL</p> <p>NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Dallas 21 Green Bay 6.</p> <p>BADMINTON</p> <p>MANCHESTER: International match: England 1 China 4. England's first match: England 1 China 4. England's first match: England 1 China 4.</p> <p>BASKETBALL</p> <p>NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Vancouver 83 Sacramento 94.</p> <p>BOWLS</p> <p>EGHAM TROPHY (An-England mixed international championship): First round: Concordia 103-82, London 103-82, London 103-82, London 103-82.</p>	<p>Isleworth 101-84, Boreham 91-84, Boreham 91-84, Boreham 91-84.</p> <p>CRICKET</p> <p>SARINHAL: Tour match (first day of three): New Zealand 171 and 211-7 dec (3) vs. Young 73, Pakistan Cricket Board 103-7 dec (3) vs. 41-0. Match drawn.</p> <p>FOOTBALL</p> <p>Monday's late results</p> <p>FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sheffield Wednesday 2 Nottingham Forest 0. UNIONS LEAGUE: Premier division: Portsmouth 1, Everton 3. Second division: Bolton 1, Walsley 1.</p> <p>RUGBY UNION</p> <p>Tour match: Cambridge Univ 13 vs. Samoa XV 14. Cambridge University: Tries: Bramley, Gifford, Pym, Ashford, Western, Samson. W: Tries: F. J. Jones, V. Jones, S. Jones.</p> <p>UNDER-21 MATCHES: Cancelled: Leicester v New Zealand News.</p> <p>CLUB MATCHES: Cancelled: Richmond v Combined Universities.</p> <p>SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Cup: Under-18: Second round: Rossall 66 Aldershot 1. FA Premier League Trophy: Under-18: Leicester 1, Nottingham 1.</p> <p>SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 6 Valladolid 1.</p> <p>ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Independiente 1 San Lorenzo 1. River Plate 1, Boca Juniors 2. Racing 2, Estudiantes 2, Ferro 1.</p> <p>BRITISH LEAGUE: Juventus 3, Southampton 2, Fiorentina 1, Lazio 1, Fiorentina 1, Lazio 1.</p> <p>ITALIAN LEAGUE: Juventus 3, Fiorentina 1, Lazio 1, Fiorentina 1, Lazio 1.</p> <p>GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayern 1, Borussia Dortmund 1, Borussia Dortmund 1, Borussia Dortmund 1.</p> <p>FRANCO-SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Madrid 1, Real Madrid 1, Real Madrid 1, Real Madrid 1.</p> <p>SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Celtic 1, Celtic 1, Celtic 1, Celtic 1.</p> <p>WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff 1, Cardiff 1, Cardiff 1, Cardiff 1.</p> <p>IRISH LEAGUE: Dublin 1, Dublin 1, Dublin 1, Dublin 1.</p> <p>NETBALL: England 1, England 1, England 1, England 1.</p> <p>TABLE TENNIS: England 1, England 1, England 1, England 1.</p> <p>ICE HOCKEY</p> <p>NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston 4 San Jose 2. Washington 4, Calgary 5 New York Rangers 3.</p> <p>REAL TENNIS</p> <p>QUEEN'S CLUB: British Lamb British</p>
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TENNIS

Krajicek's power play too strong for Chang

FROM DAVID MILLER IN HANOVER

THE three hours or so that it took Richard Krajicek and Boris Becker, the respective champions of Wimbledon and Australia, to win their opening round-robin matches in the world championship of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) provided rich entertainment for the mere 15,000 crowd at the Messehalle exhibition centre here yesterday.

Michael Chang, the US Open finalist this year and runner-up to Becker in this event last year, and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, were sent packing in straight sets, each groping to try to contain his opponent's power.

During practice, Becker and Goran Ivanisevic had said that the synthetic court was "slowish". Not for some. Krajicek yesterday made it seem like an ice rink. Chang, who has one of the best two-handed service returns in the game, could not handle the barrage from this 6ft 5in cannon that included 20 aces in a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Krajicek, the first Dutchman to hold the Wimbledon title, said that this was his best performance since. None would contradict him. In such circumstances, every point on his own service was critical for Chang if he were to stay in the match, and it could be said that this turned on two points in particular. A double fault at 3-3 and 30-30 in the first set gave Krajicek break point, which he secured in a rally, Chang netting a forehand.

The other was controversial. At 1-1 in the second set, a forehand by Chang was called out. An instant replay, provided by a huge, four-sided video screen, suspended above the court, showed the bounce to have been two inches inside the baseline. Tennis, thankfully, has not allowed decision-reversal with television evidence, however dramatic

this may be for television voyeurs. The point stood. Krajicek hit a forehand return winner from Chang's next second service, and, a break-game up, was effectively home and dry.

Chang was far more philosophical afterwards than Carl, his brother and coach, who fumed at ATP officials. "Yes, it probably cost me the match, but people are going to make mistakes," Michael said, graciously. He denied that seeing immediate video evidence had doubled his grief.

The world championship is a kind of Rolls-Royce club, the players being especially composed and proud to be among their seven elite peers. "It is nice to be here," Chang said, observing that, to win a grand-slam event, whatever the prestige, you do not, as here, have to play five of the world's top eight. Despite Krajicek's power, he considers that the surface is fairly balanced towards baseliners.

Krajicek agreed that the bad call had helped him. It allowed him, thereafter, to serve at maximum pressure in the knowledge that he had the protection of a game in hand. It would seem that his relative slump after Wimbledon, his only title of the year — "I needed to get used to the experience," he has said lightly — was caused by continuing problems with his knees, arising from twisting from such a height. Surgery would not necessarily resolve the problem.

Becker, who is 29 on Friday, triumphed 6-4, 7-5 and looked as formidable as ever, his shaven ginger-head as sleek as the radiator of the bespoke automobile that pays a fortune for his endorsement. On this form, he is as hard to escape as a shark in a 50-metre swimming pool. Kafelnikov, who willingly conceded nothing, at times was left perplexed, shaking his head.



Krajicek approached his best form in the defeat of Chang in Hanover yesterday

Eager Hings soon blossoms among Big Apple's finest

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

NOT much stays the same here. No sooner has one building been torn down than another two have replaced it, and the bits that survive more than a couple of years are constantly being revamped, patched up and painted. As most New Yorkers will tell you, this will be a great town once it is finished.

It seems, too, that women's tennis is getting the hang of New York. For so many years, it has been regarded as a two-woman show — Evert and Navratilova, Graf and Seles — but at last the skyline is changing. While the old guard waved goodbye to Gabriela Sabatini at Madison Square Garden on Monday night — after 12 years on the circuit and 27 titles, the best

that they could come up with for a retirement present was a karaoke machine — the younger, more impatient members of the Women's Tennis Association Tour were itching to get on with things. Martina Hings, at 16 the youngest player in the Chase

Results 49

Then again, she never had a chance. Hings was efficient, ordered and precise.

To qualify for this event was one of Hings's goals for the year. Now ranked No 5 in the world, she has not only achieved her aim, but is also being tipped as a possible title contender. This has not escaped Hings, a confident Swiss lass who knows her own worth.

"It is surprising how well I am playing right now," she said, "but I am happy with the way it is. If I play like that, there are not so many things to improve any more. I even served an ace at 103mph for the first time. It's been a good experience so far."

Anke Huber, the No 6 seed, pushed Graf to five sets in the final last year, but on Monday she was polished off in the first round, 7-5, 6-3, by Iva Majoli. The German seemed intent on self-destruction from the start, serving a handful of double faults to go 4-1 down. She tried to scramble her way back into the match, but by midway through the second set she knew that it was all over.

The win was something of a breakthrough for Majoli. At the end of last year, she hit the indoor circuit with style, but once the circuit moved outdoors again, her game fell apart. Still, at 19, the Croatian knows that she has time enough to improve, and with her first win in three visits to the championships, she is happy enough for now.

Lindsay Davenport is quite content, too. The Olympic champion has had a difficult couple of years since she first became America's top-ranked female player, but things seem to be getting better at last. On Monday, she took a mere 50 minutes to beat Barbara Paulus, from Austria, 6-3, 6-2.

Answers from page 49

IMAGO
(a) The final and perfect stage of an insect after it has gone through all its metamorphoses. For example, a butterfly. Say, "Ah," as your sister finally emerges from the bathroom, dolled up to receive her latest fongible (replacement boyfriend). "So we have the ultimate imago — until tomorrow."

VIRAGO
(a) A fierce, bad-tempered woman. A termagant. The derivation is from *vir*, a man. So a *virago* is a manish woman. The implication that being manish is tantamount to being bad-tempered and violent is unkind to males. *Termagant* is a better word. And its derivation is more fun. It comes from *Ter-magjan*, a Persian lord or god. The Crusaders confused his followers with their enemies, the Moslems. The *Termagant* became a stock villain of the medieval stage. *Hamlet*: "I could have such a fellow whipped for o'erdoing *Termagant*." Then he changed sex, because his Eastern robes were like those worn by European women.

GLEBOUS
(a) Earthy, full of clods or sods. From the Latin *gleba*, English *glebe* a clod or sod.

RHONCHISONANT
(a) Snoring or snoring. From the Latin. Everybody snores, but few thank you for noticing it. *Rhynchonant* is tantamount to being better than those descriptions you are supposed to put for yourself in the Personal ads intended to arrange introductions with the opposite sex. If you have to advertise, you are in the wrong business.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Rxe5! Bxe5 2 Nf6! Bxf6 3 Qxd5 and White emerges with a winning material advantage.

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Meet Kevin, the misunderstood Maxwell

The BBC's appetite for having its cake and eating it is clearly growing. First the same corporation that lavishes pomp and circumstance on every state event from Trooping the Colour down, serves up *Ruby*. Now it has turned its two-faced attentions to Kevin Maxwell.

You remember Kevin Maxwell, roundly condemned a couple of weeks ago on BBC1 by Tom Bower's *Inside Story*. Well, meet Kevin Maxwell — family man, much misunderstood good egg, and the star of *The Trial of Kevin Maxwell* (BBC1).

It was rather like watching a very long public apology for libel. It didn't quite begin: "Our recent programme may have inadvertently given the impression that Mr Kevin Maxwell was a crook... or finish with a reference to 'substantial damages' but, given the tone, it could easily have

Somewhere out there, there was something nasty called the media and Nadia Hagger, director and creator — on the evidence of this — of the haggardography, wanted no part in it. The media had been rotten to Kevin, you see, and that would never do.

Hagger made no attempt to answer the difficult questions that surround this case, such as how incompetent do you have to be before it becomes criminal? Or just because Daddy says so? Well, then, does that always make it right? And why should she? Both these questions were settled, in Maxwell's favour, in court. Instead, she concentrated on the personalities — the ever-so-apologetic Kevin, his forthright wife Pandora and their quite adorable eldest daughter, Tilly. When Tilly Maxwell follows family tradition and takes over the world... well, if I'm not too old by then, can I be Editor of the *Daily Mirror*?

For a while it looked as if this formula would be enough. Kevin was disarmingly contrite, apologising for "mistakes, errors of judgment, bad decisions" while insisting he had done nothing criminal. Pandora, a woman of strong opinions, revealed enough waspish charm to explain why she gets on well with High Court judges and why, when it comes to a fight, you'd want her on your side. As for Tilly, she was busy cheering everyone up. Mum and Daddy had a new baby on the way (not ideal timing, Pandora observed) their sixth. "I'm pleased," said the wise Tilly, "because whether the trial turns out good or bad, if there's a new baby in the house, there won't be time to be upset." Bless her.

As we all know, the trial turned out good, which resulted in a quite interminable final 30 minutes as Hagger

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

tried desperately to inject some drama into a film that had long run its natural course. Unforgivably, this included a series of questions apparently designed to make Tilly cry. Now, keeping the camera running until an adult cries is par for the documentary course these days (Pandora's father duly obliged a few minutes later), but children? Shots don't come much cheaper, although the

final, post-credit, postscript — "The media continues to judge them" — came close.

Over on BBC2, the latest instalment of *When Rover Met BMW* was subtitled *A Job for Life*, a commitment which the makers invited us to take literally for a good ten minutes... until a couple of old hands at Longbridge revealed that whatever the bright bobs in personnel might say there was no such thing. "Jobs for life? No one gets a job for life these days."

But Rover apparently comes close, which is why they were queuing up in their thousands when Longbridge launched its first major recruitment drive for seven years.

happas as revenge he could cut a Rover 200 in half, immerse it in pickling vinegar and then sell it for a fortune.

We were left with Craig, whose tattoos signalled his intention to become one of the lads; Vicki, who after her first shift ached in parts that could no longer be described as spare, and Waseem, who in his enthusiasm had made the fatal mistake of believing he could do the job faster than everyone else and then — oh dear — told them so during a meal break. His trainer tactfully urged him to slow down. "As soon as you've done one car, there's another one there ready, you'll never beat this." I have a feeling the point will have been made more forcibly once the cameras were switched off.

In search of late-night diversion, I stumbled across *Lumberjacks OK* (Channel 4), a programme so

cheap that a commissioning editor ought to be feeling thoroughly ashamed of his or herself this morning. True, David "Kid" Jensen and someone called Georgey Spanswick have been flown out to Squamish (now there's a name not to try late at night), British Columbia, to commentate and make jokes about Canadians with big chopppers, but one sparsely attended lumberjack meet (a chop-in?) has been turned into no fewer than six programmes. Last night's was dedicated to just the one event, springboard chopping, which looks about as silly as it sounds. After endless unrelatable graphics, a beginner's guide to logging and a tour of the Squamish railway museum, the competition was won by Karl, who chopped his way to the top in about 55 seconds. Karl was positively beside himself. "That's the way it goes in lumberjack sports sometimes." Next week, birling. Don't ask.

8.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (85555)

7.00 BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (Cesfax) (19577) 8.00 BREAKFAST NEWS (Cesfax) (19577)

9.20 STYLISH CHALLENGE (s) (210198)

9.45 KILROY (s) (878272)

10.30 CART COOK, WONT COOK With chef Lesley Walters (s) (85372)

11.00 NEWS (Cesfax) (255258)

11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW - Consumer advice series (s) (417204)

11.45 SMILLY'S PEOPLE St Peter Hall (s) (890555)

12.00 NEWS (Cesfax) (481828)

12.05pm POLICE RESCUE (s) (252730)

12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (s) (818077)

1.00 NEWS (Cesfax) and weather (19914)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (4175914)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (Cesfax) (s) (2408914)

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (s) (2117)

2.30 A WEEK IN THE COUNTRY (s) (594)

3.00 INCognito (s) (4952)

3.30 ANTS IN YOUR PANTS (816759) 3.50 CHUCKLEWACK (817223) 4.10 GET YOUR OWN BACK (857382) 4.35 THE QUEEN'S NOSE (1127159) 5.00 NEWSROUND (827648) 5.10 BLUE PETER (Cesfax) (s) (238465)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (s) (727210)

6.00 NEWS (Cesfax) and weather (223)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (575)

7.00 SMALL TALK (s) (8633)

7.30 HERE AND NOW: Sue Lawley and the team present affairs and investigations (Cesfax) (759)

8.00 HOW DO THEY DO THAT? Eamon Holmes and Esther McVey reveal how some of our most famous people have been transformed into a dragon for his latest film *Dragonheart*. Plus, how doctors managed to save a soldier's life after he was shot in the chest. And how a man's life was saved after he was hit by a train. (Cesfax) (s) (228227)

8.50 POINTS OF VIEW (346407)

9.00 NEWS (Cesfax) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (8458)

9.30 THE X FILES: *Guinevere* with David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson on the trail of Big Blue, a legendary Loch Ness-style monster (Cesfax) (s) (742391)

10.15 HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS (s) (Cesfax) (s) (198285) WALES: *Karne's Wales*

10.45 SPORTSIGHT Des Lynam introduces Sportsight's highlights of the Manchester derby between Liverpool and Everton. Coverage of the British lightweight championship, Crickey, a preview of England's tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand (s) (555730)

12.15am FILM: *Carolina Skies* (1991) with Louis Gossett Jr. A black US Marine officer returns to his childhood home in South Carolina, where his dying mother tells him he once had an older brother who was suspected for the murder of two white girls. He vows to prove his brother's innocence (550334) WALES: *Harry Enfield and Chums* 12.45 FILM: *Carolina Skies* 2.15 News

1.45 WEATHER (105353)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to find out more about the programme you are watching. The numbers are listed in the Video PlusCode for the programme you are watching. The numbers are listed in the Video PlusCode for the programme you are watching.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (238082) 7.30 Press Your Luck (237191) 7.40 Jeopardy! (237191) 8.10 News (237191) 8.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 8.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 9.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 9.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 9.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 10.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 10.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 10.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 11.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 11.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 11.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 12.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 12.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 12.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 1.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 1.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 1.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 2.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 2.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 2.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 3.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 3.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 3.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 4.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 4.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 4.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 5.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 5.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 5.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 6.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 6.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 6.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 7.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 7.30 Jeopardy! (237191) 7.50 Jeopardy! (237191) 8.10 Jeopardy! (237191) 8.30 Jeopardy! 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RACING 47

Ruling body acts to protect appeal of Grand National

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1996

TENNIS 50

Power play serves Krajicek well in world championship



Venables opts to play Australian rules



Venables: globe-trotting

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TERRY VENABLES sat in Scribes West International, his drinking club in Kensington, and announced the next stage of his colourful career. Venables — writer, raconteur, bon viveur and manager-at-large — was to take charge of the Australia national football team. "El Tel" becomes "Socceroo".

Venables, 53, is many things to many people: a vibrant mix of the good, the bad and, occasionally, the ugly. He was at his best yesterday, in a familiar environment surrounded by familiar faces, and lapped up the attention.

"I opened the curtains this morning and looked out at the weather," he said. "That's when I realised what a good decision I'd made." A

good decision that includes a 19-month contract, a reported £200,000-a-year salary and unlimited travel, monitoring the Australia-born players scattered across the globe.

Venables, the former England coach, will attempt to lead Australia to the finals of the 1998 World Cup in France. If he does, seeing off the might of Tahiti, then Tonga or the Solomon Islands, and then probably New Zealand along the way, he will receive a not insignificant bonus for his efforts.

"I have two targets," he said. "The first is that we've got to get to the finals. The second is that if we do, then we have to go as far as we possibly can. It's a big challenge but a big reward if we make it. I've got to do what I feel is right. I don't run

my life by what other people think. I do what I want to do.

"Australia have a much better group of players than most people think they have. That part of the world is catching up fast and I'm sure people will be surprised. What interested me most was being involved in international football again. I had 24 years with England and I really enjoyed it."

Les Scheindflug and Raul Blanco will be Venables' assistant coaches when he acquires himself with Australian football, and his 14-strong national league, on his first trip down under in January. First up is the hosting of a four-team tournament, also involving Norway, New Zealand and South Korea, with the World Cup qualifying matches not starting until June.

Few Venables gatherings are without a twist and yesterday was no exception. He also revealed that he is to become the chairman of Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division club where he has been director of football since the start of the season.

"It was a possibility before all this but it won't take away from what I'm doing with Australia because, from the beginning of the season, I've only been at Portsmouth to give direction," he said. "It's been working quite well. I'll still help him [Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager] as much as I can, but getting to the training ground has been difficult."

"Anyway, how many chairmen go to the club every day? I haven't been to every game so far, but there's a

good shape to the club and I'm there to help as much as I can from my experience."

Venables then departed through the assembled media. Rarely can a football press conference in England have been sprinkled with so many twangy Aussie accents, yet, surprisingly, nobody offered a greeting of "G'day, Tel." He stopped only to pose for the photographers, obligatory boomerang in hand.

It left the stage clear for David Hill, the ebullient chairman of Soccer Australia, the sport's national governing body, to hype the occasion further. Hill, 50, who was born in Eastbourne, brushed off the negative reaction from disaffected coaches and former players back home. He also stressed that Soccer Australia's financial worries were

over. "We took a bit of a buffeting but we've stabilised now," he said. "Terry is a big investment by our standards, but the 1998 World Cup is very important to us. We wanted the best coach we could get and we've got him. I spoke to a lot of our players and every one of them was excited, as is Australia."

"Aussie coaches are good enough to do the job, of course they are, but once we knew Terry was interested, we had to talk to him. When we knew we had finally got him, it was fair dinkum."

William Hill, the bookmaker, was not convinced. "Venables should be capable of getting the Aussies into the final stages but he'd need to be able to make a silk purse out of a kangaroo's pouch to win it," a spokesman said.

Venue for Estonia replay rejected

Scotland to argue in support of travel-weary fans

By KEVIN MCCARRA

ESTONIA'S ill-fated game with Scotland continues to be a fertile source of controversy. A replay of the group four World Cup qualifying match that failed to take place in Tallinn last month has been ordered by Fifa, football's world governing body, but the venue for it is about to provoke fresh dispute.

Estonia are expected to propose that the game should go ahead in Cyprus, where they have a winter training camp, on February 11. Yesterday, however, the Scottish Football Association (SFA) decided that it will resist any such suggestion. It argues that it is unreasonable to force Scotland supporters, who have already travelled to Tallinn, now to make the 5½-hour journey to Cyprus.

It may also claim that the stadiums in Cyprus do not conform to Fifa criteria. The SFA's emergence in the role of dissident was not the only

deviation from standard practice yesterday. Desertion on the eve of battle is the kind of offence that normally invites a court martial, but it is a sense of duty that caused Walter Smith to miss Rangers' preparations for the European Cup Champions' League tie with Grasshopper Club of Zurich.

He was out of town because

Midweek View 48
Greatest goal 49

his team are already out of Europe and the manager's obligations lie with the club's long-term future. Smith has been in Santiago meeting a possible signing, the young Chilean forward, Sebastian Rozental, of Universidad Catolica. He will be back in the dugout this evening, but he may view the action at Ibrox with interest rather than passion.

After defeats in all four group matches to date, Rangers cannot reach the quarter-finals. The wretchedness had its origins in the opening game, a 3-0 defeat by Grasshopper in Zurich. Rangers also had to endure some scathing remarks that night. Kubiley Turkulmaz, scorer of two of the goals, claimed that the Scots had come to Switzerland like holidaymakers.

Christian Gross, the Grasshopper coach, now insists that he himself made no criticism, but the Rangers squad, as they try to manufacture relevance for the fixture, will tap their own sense of resentment. "They showed us a lack of respect," Ally McCoist, the forward, said, "but players don't mope around over that kind of thing. They get even."

Revenge always has its

GROUP A

OG Zurich P
Ajax A
Austria A
Rangers L
Rangers 11, Austria 0; Ajax 1, Grasshopper 3; Rangers 0, Rangers 2; Ajax 0, Grasshopper 2; Rangers 1, Austria 1; Grasshopper 2, Rangers 3; Rangers 3, Ajax 1; Rangers 4, Rangers 1; Rangers 1, Austria 0.

MATCHES TO COME: Today, Rangers v Grasshopper; Zurich, Ajax v Austria; Oct 6, Grasshopper v Zurich; v Ajax; Austria v Rangers.

charm, but, when incentives are considered, it must be admitted that victory would provide Grasshopper with a far more enticing prize. Should they defeat Rangers, the club will be assured a place in the last eight. Grasshopper have never appeared in so advanced a round of the European Cup.

Should Austria lose to Ajax in Holland, Grasshopper will qualify for the quarter-finals regardless of the result at Ibrox. Rangers, as bemused as they are disappointed by results in the group, can only hope for proof of their own worth. McCoist, omitted from the starting line-up last week, has at least found cause for renewed faith in his value to the club.

Without him, Rangers suffered from ludicrously wasteful finishing in the 1-0 victory against Celtic last week. "After watching those misses," McCoist said cheekily, "I am feeling superb."



Cambridge University players keep their eyes on the ball after a ruck in their match with the Western Samoans yesterday. Report, page 50

Atlanta drugs tests queried

By JOHN GOODBODY

FOUR Olympic competitors could face bans of up to four years if new drug tests are ordered by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Dr Patrick Schanash, the IOC medical director, yesterday confirmed that four competitors had returned "adverse findings" for anabolic steroids during the Games in Atlanta and said a decision would be made next month whether to retest the urine specimens.

The IOC has declined to identify which sports or competitors are involved, although they are likely to be medal winners. At the Games, the three medal-winners and one other competitor in each event, selected at random, are automatically tested.

Dr Schanash said: "These results came from the high resolution mass spectrometer and there is, therefore, a question about the reliability

of the findings. We do not consider them as positive. We have to be 100 per cent certain."

The tests were carried out by Dr Don Catlin, of the University of California, Los Angeles, one of the most respected figures in international doping analysis. He used the high resolution mass spectrometer, the most sophisticated instrument in the world, for the first time at the Games. This is far more sensitive than the standard mass spectrometer, which is used in most laboratories accredited by the IOC.

If new tests are ordered by the IOC medical commission, they will be carried out on an orthodox mass spectrometer which was also used in Atlanta. At the Games, Iva Prandzeva, of Bulgaria, who came fourth in the women's triple jump, and Natalya Shekdanova, the Russian

100-metre hurdler, failed tests using this equipment. Both took anabolic steroids.

The IOC is worried that if a competitor is found to have given a positive sample on the results from the high resolution equipment, this could be challenged legally.

However, it is curious that the testing laboratory in Atlanta, based at the Morehouse College Medical School, did not automatically retest the four specimens which gave "adverse findings", on its standard equipment before reporting the findings.

On the day after the 1994 Games, Prince Alexandre de Merode, the president of the IOC Medical Commission, found details of nine positive drug tests had inadvertently been shredded in his hotel room in Los Angeles. The names of the nine competitors were never released.

Webber struggling to rise to Challenge

The run of bad luck that seems to be afflicting Courtald's International continued yesterday when the yacht's skipper, Boris Webber, was taken ill just 36 hours before the start of the second leg of the BT Global Challenge today, from Rio de Janeiro to Wellington.

Webber, a South African, has gone down with a stomach bug and was in bed yesterday. He has been seen by a doctor and was being looked after by his wife, Trish. A spokeswoman for the race said Webber still hoped to be well enough to make the start this afternoon.

Webber has found it difficult to come to terms with ocean racing alongside a crew not performing, naturally enough, at anything like expert level. They endured the worst first leg of the fleet, eventually finishing thirteenth, just ahead of the disabled crew on Time & Tide and nearly 90 hours behind the leader, Group 4.

Among his problems were two blown

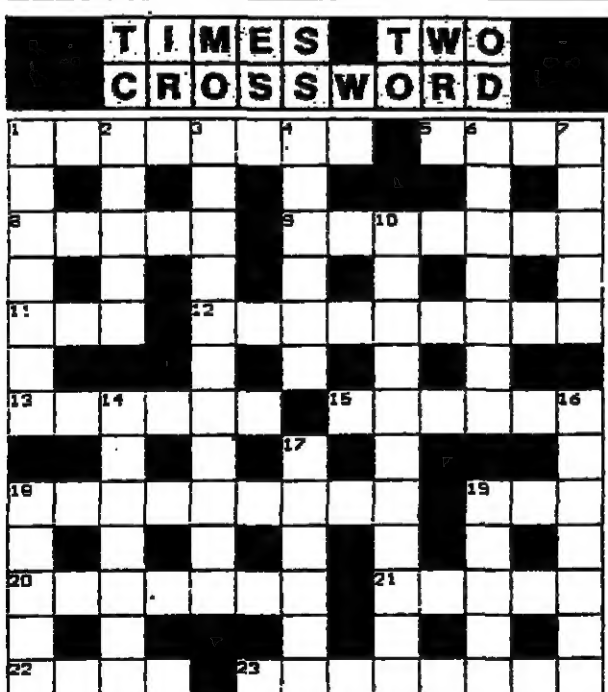
Edward Gorman charts the troubled waters coursing through Rio

spinners and a broken pole. A new pole was sent for from Britain and one of the spinners was sent back for repair. So far neither has arrived in Rio. If they are not available for the start, Chay Blyth, the race director, may have to ask all the other boats to surrender a pole and a spinner to keep the playing field level.

Meanwhile, the crews on Commercial Union, Motorola and Toshiba Wave Warrior have each had to do some emergency shopping in Rio to make up their stores for the Southern Ocean, after deliveries of specially-prepared freeze-dried food failed to arrive in Brazil as expected.

In the Vendée Globe single-handed, non-stop, round-the-world race, Pete Goss, of Britain, on board *Aqua One*, is in the doldrums belt and hoping for the same windy conditions that swept the nine boats ahead of him through without any delay. The next two days will be critical," he said yesterday, as he was making around ten knots under both headsails. "Those up front seem to have sailed through unchecked, let's hope we have the same."

The race leader remains Yves Parlier, on *Aquitaine Innovations*, who is about 80 miles ahead of Isabelle Autissier, on *PRB*, who followed him across the equator early yesterday. Parlier, whose freshwater tanks leaked shortly after the start, is now running low, having had little rain to replenish them. "I have only got 28 litres left," he said. "I will have to ration myself now. It's so sad because everything is going well so far."



No 944

ACROSS

- 1 Customary (8)
- 5 Floppy (4)
- 8 Tendon (5)
- 9 Trembles; short notes (mus.) (7)
- 11 Prov. wise bird (3)
- 12 Nautically neat (9)
- 13 Baby cat (6)
- 15 Put money (into) (9)
- 18 Misleading (9)
- 19 Great Expectations hero (3)
- 20 Obvious (7)
- 21 Eskimo house (5)
- 22 Legislative assembly; eat less (4)
- 23 Sound of tapped sticks (8)

DOWN

- 1 Church kneeler (7)
- 2 Tite (5)
- 3 Municipal inhabitants (11)
- 4 Find not guilty (6)
- 6 Go over again (7)
- 7 Sheriff's band (5)
- 10 Failure to show for work (11)
- 14 Relating to touch (7)
- 16 Outer covering (clothes, paint) (7)
- 17 Process of antiseptic surgery (6)
- 18 Terror (5)
- 19 Beat; lentil seed (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 943

- ACROSS: 5 Organ-grinder 8 Uppers 9 Evolve 10 Inky
12 Tarnish 14 Flavored 15 Beer 17 Listen 18 Abrupt
20 Intermittent

DOWN: 1 Complication 2 Agree 3 Freeman 4 Amusement

- 6 Nasty 7 Eavesdropper 11 Kreuzer 13 Pen-name 16 Pawn 19 Ruby

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 939

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS: 1 Viol 3 Acoustic 8 Seer 9 Wardrobe 11 Vernacular
14 Unfair 15 Assist 17 By-election 20 Isolated 21 Para
22 Desolate 23 Send

- DOWN: 1 Vesuvius 2 Overruff 4 Claque 5 Old Pals Act
6 Took 7 Cleft 10 Cavity wall 12 Mitigate 13 Standard 16 Client
18 Mild 19 Bore

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